BOMBAY—1925-26

A Review

of the

Administration of the Presidency

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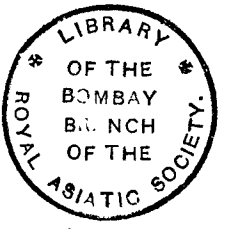

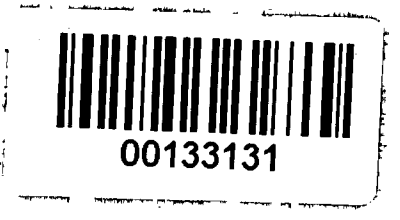

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INTRODUCTION

THE Administration Report for 1925-26 is on the same lines as last year. It is divided into two parts.

Part I is a general summary of the year's work.

Part II deals with the work and events of the year under review and is preceded, where necessary, by a note explaining the history and functions of the department of Government whose work is reviewed and its place in the administration.

Photographs and diagrams have been inserted in the report as usual. The selling price has been fixed at Rs. 2 per copy.

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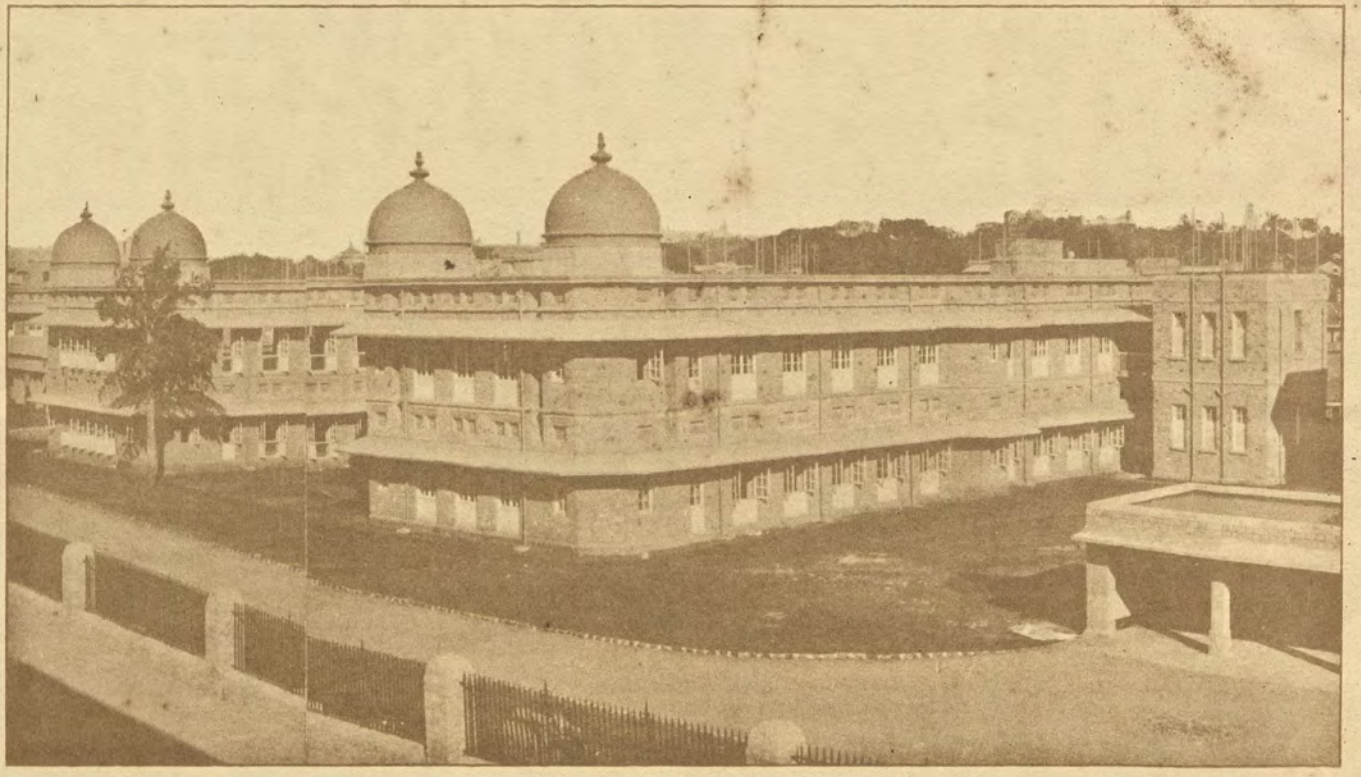

KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, PAREL.
(CENTRAL BLOCK)

BOMBAY, 1925-26

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

DURING the early part of the year political attention was focussed on the discussions which arose after the Secretary of State's appeal to Mr. C. R. Das to co-operate with Government in repressing the violence of the Bengal revolutionary party, which Mr. Das had already publicly deprecated. Mr. Das replied to Lord Birkenhead that though he thought a favourable atmosphere had been created for further discussion, he was unable to co-operate with Government in its present policy of repression. He followed up this reply, however, by a striking speech early in May at the Bengal Provincial Conference at Faridpur, where he expressed his preference for Dominion Status for India and suggested that Government should give up its wide discretionary powers of constraint, and follow this up by a general amnesty to all political prisoners. The people should on their part undertake not to encourage in any way revolutionary propaganda and make every effort to end such a state of affairs. In the event of no settlement being reached, the Swarajist policy of obstruction should be continued. Mr. Das died on June 16 and on July 7 Lord Birkenhead, in effect, replied to the Faridpur speech. The Secretary of State said that there was no objection to a revision of the Reforms Act within the period prescribed by Parliament but pointed out that there could be no reconsideration until a genuine desire was shown to make the existing Reforms Act a success. When the Bombay Legislative Council met on July 20 leave was asked to adjourn the House to consider the unsatisfactory nature of Lord Birkenhead's statement on India but the motion was disallowed by His Excellency the Governor on the ground that it was primarily

not the concern of the Government of Bombay. Permission, however, was given to move a resolution of regret on the death of Mr. Das, which was passed, the Leader of the House associating himself entirely with its terms and sympathising particularly with the members of the Swaraj Party on behalf of the Government members. A month later the Viceroy opened the Assembly sessions when he said that the Government of India had come to the conclusion that the moment for an enquiry, as suggested in the Minority Report of the Muddiman Committee, had not yet arrived and he most earnestly commended co-operation which alone would advance India to its ultimate goal.

The Cawnpore Congress reiterated its faith in Civil Disobedience and directed that the Congress should prepare the country for it. The Swaraj Party was at the earliest opportunity to invite Government to give its final decision on the National demand and in case no such decision was given or was held to be unsatisfactory the party was to walk out from all the Legislatures and go into the country to work among the people and prepare them for Civil Disobedience. These conditions were declared to have been fulfilled in March 1926, when the All-India Congress Committee in a resolution declared that the insistence of the Secretary of State and the Government of India on full co-operation by representatives of the people under existing conditions freely demonstrated the intention of Government to subject the Nation to abject submission without making any advance on the present vicious system of Government. The Committee, therefore, called upon the Swarajist members of the various Legislatures to cease to take part in its deliberations. The members of the Swaraj Party in the Bombay Legislative Council walked out on March 10 after a short statement by their then leader, Mr. Bhopatkar. During the year the Congress had been captured by the Swaraj Party who had been specifically absolved by Mr. Gandhi from all obligations under the Belgaum Pact, the result of which would be to make the Congress no longer predominantly a spinning association. He not only personally absolved the Swarajists but proposed also to ask the All-India Congress Committee to do likewise and to place the whole machinery of the Congress at its disposal.

Mr. Jayakar, the leader of the Swaraj Party in the Bombay Legislative Council, took a prominent part with Mr. Kelkar in the fight for responsive co-operation. Mr. Jayakar defined this as co-operation or opposition in response to or in accordance with the changing of circumstances of which the attitude of the bureaucracy was an important factor. They both resigned their seats in the Bombay Legislative Council and Council of State, respectively, after the Cawnpore Congress in order to obtain greater freedom to carry on the propaganda in favour of responsive co-operation.

The fourth session of the Bombay Presidency Liberal Conference was held in Poona at the end of August, when resolutions were passed recommending that immediate steps be taken to give effect to the principal recommendation of the Minority Report of the Muddiman Committee by appointing a Royal Commission or otherwise to put the constitution of British India on a permanent basis with provision for automatic progress in the future.

Hindu-Moslem tension continued throughout the year but not to anything like the same extent as in other parts of India. Government found it necessary to undertake prosecutions against both Hindus and Muhammadans in respect of violent and intemperate attacks in the Press. The Moharrum passed off peacefully throughout the Presidency, except in Sholapur, where on August 2 there was a collision between the Hindus and Muhammadans followed by a more serious riot in October, when two Muhammadans were killed and a number of Hindus and Muhammadans were injured.

Finance.—In his introductory note on the Budget for 1926-27 Mr. G. Wiles, Secretary, Finance Department, summarised the course of events since 1921. He pointed out that there had been wonderfully little change in the total revenues received, though various items had fluctuated. Land Revenue had remained unimproved or even retreated a little. Excise Revenue had gone up, and the revenue from Stamps had fluctuated with trade, and with the addition and subtraction of the Court Fees Act had finally gone up by some 9 lakhs on account of an assignment from the Central Government to cover the loss of the Presidency due to the introduction of unified stamps.

The total revenues were 1,412 lakhs in 1922-23, including 15 lakhs Excise Revenue on account of Opium, which was illusory because balanced by an equal expenditure or a purely formal change in accounting. They were estimated to be 1,417 in the current year (1925-26) and 1,451 in the year 1926-27. Expenditure was reduced by the great and special effort of 1922 from 1,484 lakhs to 1,311 lakhs but some 30 lakhs of this reduction being due to postponement, rather than retrenchment, was replaced in the following years. In the current year 1925-26 it was anticipated in the revised estimates that it would be 1,458 lakhs, after deducting extraordinary items like the interest on loans to the Bombay Bodies. The chief items in this increase were Education and Civil Works and there were large increases in Medical and Public Health, Agriculture, Pension Charges, Grants to Local Boards and smaller ones in some other administrative departments.

The result of the five years could be summed up thus. After the great retrenchment effort of 1922, the effects of which lasted over three years, the inevitable expansion had begun again. In the meantime Government had been enabled to increase its Famine Fund from nil to nearly 194 lakhs, its balances (excluding a temporary loan surplus) from 193 to 351 lakhs, after drawing upon them to the extent of 79 lakhs in 1925-26 to meet the small revenue deficit, some capital expenditure on Works and part of the repayment of the pre-Reform Provincial Loan Debt. The expenditure of 1925-26 thus showed an increase of 119 lakhs (or 104 lakhs, excluding the nominal increase of 15 lakhs under Excise) over the actuals of 1924-25 and the final figure must be considered to contain only normal obligations, if Government are to continue to meet the demands of the public on the Administrative Departments, chiefly of the Transferred side of Government.

The year 1925-26 opened with a balance of 636 lakhs of which 144 lakhs were allotted to the Famine Insurance Fund, 62 lakhs were loan balances, leaving a true balance of 430 lakhs, exclusive of Development transactions.

Taking the various heads of revenue in detail, there was again a setback in the year under review under the most important

head of Land Revenue receipts, the estimated revenue of 628¼ lakhs having fallen short by 25½ lakhs, partly due to the failure of the River Indus inundation in Sind. There was a decrease, also, in the revenue from Excise of 34½ lakhs, the total being only 415¼ lakhs, instead of the estimated 449¾ lakhs. The consumption of liquor has fallen since 1920-21 from 28·4 lakhs gallons to 15·4 lakhs gallons. Under Stamps the actual realisations fell short of the estimate of 184½ lakhs by about 9 lakhs. Although the Budget Estimates for 1925-26 were prepared on principles of strict economy, Government were faced with a revenue deficit of 41 lakhs. They, therefore, placed before the Legislative Council taxation proposals for increasing Court Fees, a Transfer of Property Tax for the City of Bombay, and a Totalizator Betting Tax, the three being estimated to bring in 42 lakhs. The Legislative Council, however, refused in the Budget session to accord sanction to the Transfer of Property Tax, and the Court Fees Bill was not proceeded with by Government after its first reading. The Council in its July session passed a Bill empowering Government to levy a tax up to 4 per cent. of the money put on the totalisator on the Race Courses. Government, accordingly, levied in 1925 a tax of 2½ per cent. and this brought in an additional revenue of 8 lakhs.

Bombay again received nothing out of the Income Tax revenue of the Presidency but as a result of the reiterated protests of the Government of Bombay and the recommendation of the Taxation Enquiry Committee, the Government of India are considering, in consultation with local Governments, the question of re-allocating some of the sources of revenue between the Central and Provincial Governments; and it is hoped that with a partial modification of the present financial arrangements, now under consideration, the Government of Bombay will be allotted a fair share in the Income Tax revenue.

The Government of India reduced the Provincial contribution to the Central Exchequer by 22 lakhs, but the reduction of contribution is not a permanent measure.

Trade and Commerce.—There was a general falling off in trade as shown by the Customs Returns. The previous year's

figures recorded an improvement of over 30 crores owing to the unprecedented imports of treasure. But these fell in the year under review by 44 crores and accounted in the main for the decrease in Bombay's foreign trade. With bullion prices falling and with less attraction to speculate in bullion owing mainly to the return to a gold standard on the part of Great Britain, and the stability of Indian exchange, such a fall in the imports of treasure was natural. Bullion, however, by no means accounts for the whole decrease as a decline of 15 crores was also recorded under merchandise. A contributing factor was the amount of liquid cash locked up in bullion imported the previous year, but throughout the world trade again belied the hopes of recovery so frequently expressed. In addition, Bombay had troubles of her own in the depressed state of the Cotton Mill Industry and the strike of operatives in the mills. The abolition of the Cotton Excise duty in December 1925 was not sufficient to remove the depression.

Apart from the heavy fall in imports of treasure, there was a serious contraction to the tune of nearly 8½ crores in merchandise imported. Lower prices may account for this to some extent—in the case of sugar there was an increase in volume but a decrease of nearly 1½ crore in value—yet making due allowance for this factor the import trade of Bombay passed through a difficult year. With the exception of oils, all the principal articles of import showed decreases, cotton yarn, cotton manufactures and metals being the most prominent.

On the export side the decrease in Indian produce amounts to Rs. 3·86 crores: here again the decrease was shared by all the principal articles with the exception of grain, pulse and flour. The total effect, however, was not nearly so discouraging as in the case of imports, in that the decrease in the value of raw cotton—which accounted for 66 per cent. of the total exports—was entirely due to the lower range of prices, as the actual tonnage exported showed an improvement over the previous year. Moreover, the price element alone accounted for the decrease recorded under seeds, shipments actually increasing in volume. Under this head groundnuts expanded by 38,000 tons to 85,000 tons. The most marked decrease was that

recorded under cotton manufactures, a natural reflection of the depressed state of the city's premier industry. The same reason accounted for the heavy fall in exports of cotton twist and yarn. The general fall in prices abroad adversely affected the export of raw wool which declined by over 25 per cent. in volume. It is encouraging to note that hides and skins regained some of the ground lost last year.

Changes in the direction of Bombay's trade contained one striking feature, *viz.*, that Japan now occupies first place to the detriment of the United Kingdom. Asia generally has improved her position by over 4 points. Europe has fallen back a point and the British Empire has lost $3\frac{1}{2}$.

The gross revenue collected by the Bombay Custom House declined from over Rs. 1,314½ lakhs to just over Rs. 1,272 lakhs. These figures exclude collections of Rs. 7·21 lakhs on account of cesses.

The aggregate value of the coasting trade improved by Rs. 4·23 crores to Rs. 73·64 crores owing mainly to larger shipments of rice from Burma and wheat from Sind, raw cotton from Kathiawar and the Southern Maratha Country *viâ* Goa. Shipments of kerosene oil from Burma also showed an appreciable increase. On the other hand, shipments of cotton manufactures from Bombay to Bengal and Sind fell away considerably.

The entire maritime trade of the Province of Sind was valued at Rs. 84 crores 3 lakhs, or Rs. 25 crores 73 lakhs and 23 per cent. less than the corresponding figures for the previous year. Exports contributed 56 per cent. and Imports 44 per cent. of the total value of the foreign trade.

Agriculture.—Generally speaking the agricultural season of 1925-26 was, so far as the actual produce of the land is concerned, decidedly inferior to its predecessor. Though the outturn of crops was generally up to the standard in most parts of the Konkan and in the West Deccan and the Karnatak, nowhere was it first-rate, while in most parts of Gujarat and East Khandesh and in many places in the East Deccan and the Karnatak it was definitely poor. As a result, remissions and suspensions of land revenue were found necessary in parts of Gujarat, the Deccan and the Karnatak. Fortunately, as a result of the

favourable nature of the previous season ample stocks of food grains and fodder were available and there was no actual scarcity of either in any area during the year under report, except in parts of North Gujarat and Khandesh, where the scarcity of fodder was felt later in the season. Nowhere was scarcity so acute as to affect agricultural stock seriously. There was also no serious disease among cattle during the year under review, except a rather serious attack of Rinderpest in parts of Kanara, and the condition of cattle was generally good in the Presidency. In Sind, however, the condition of cattle was far from satisfactory on account of scarcity of fodder. Prices of agricultural products remained either constant or showed a downward tendency, but wages continued high and scarcity of labour was felt in many places.

In the Presidency proper the gross cropped area dropped by 311,000 acres, while the net cropped area showed a decrease of 152,000 acres. The area under food crops fell by 631,000 acres or 3·3 per cent. below the previous year. Jowari and rice were grown to a larger extent than in the previous year and so was sugarcane, while the oil-seed crop was over 24 per cent. larger than in the previous year. The total outturn of cereals and pulses was over 4,486,000 tons.

Department of Agriculture.—The note of optimism which was sounded by the Director of Agriculture in his previous year's report regarding the very hopeful position which had been reached with respect to the general agricultural awakening and the extension of agricultural improvements is re-echoed in his report for 1925-26. Despite a season which was, on the whole, unfavourable, there was an increasingly widespread interest in agricultural advance. The improvements which the Department is able to place before the people were more than ever appreciated and the demand for further improvements was so developing that it was often impossible to meet it with the strength and organisation that are available. But the improvement of crops by the supply of pure or more valuable seed has been perhaps the biggest factor in the increase in values in agricultural production and some of the results achieved by the Department of Agriculture in this connection are very striking. The increase in the year

under ground-nut cultivation, for example, as a result of the general availability of the short period, high oil bearing type of ground-nut introduced originally by the Agricultural Department from Japan and the United States continued to be very remarkable. The decline in prices of cotton seems likely to increase the area under this crop. But the Agricultural Department is alive to the temptation to cultivators to mix high quality crops with inferior types and is doing everything in its power to impress upon growers the necessity of only growing pure seed of the known types. Two strains of wheat have been evolved, which are doing much better than the existing varieties, while improved types of cotton, which have been one of the chief items of research, are being multiplied for general use, while others are being exhaustively tested. The Department is also spreading a new type of rice which gives a 20 per cent. increase in yield ; while tobacco and jowar are receiving special attention. Improvements in tillage and in the implements of agriculture are the subject of constant investigation and test. A noteworthy example of this is the ridge cultivation in Gujarat. In a very few years it is expected that it will become general in the black soil areas of south Gujarat and that the results will be an increase of crops from 20 to 25 per cent. Another type of work which has established itself definitely as a means of increasing production is the checking of pests and diseases and so preventing a wastage of much that has been grown. During the year a special investigation of the mango blight was undertaken and methods were devised for dealing with the field rat pests in lower Sind. The Department also helps cattle improvement by maintaining herds of high quality and putting out premium bulls among the villages in the Presidency.

One section of the work of the Agricultural Department which has had considerable success is that performed by a special officer who devotes himself entirely to the preparation of schemes for field embankments in order to prevent the loss of water which annually occurs owing to the run off from the surface of the land,—especially in the famine districts—and to protect the land by terraces or bunds across the surface. In 1925-26 sixty-seven schemes were prepared and in the precarious tracts

no work can be of more importance than this for it affords the cultivators more value from the rainfall and prevents the erosion which often causes loss of crops and soil at the same time. The work has been so successful that Government have sanctioned its extension.

The Poona Agricultural College received 72 new students, making the total number on the roll 218. The popularity of the College increases year by year and the demands for admission from all parts of India are greater than can be accommodated. Satisfactory results have been obtained from the new type of primary schools with an agricultural bias first established in 1922 and the number will be increased as fast as teachers are available, properly trained to take charge of the classes. The expenditure of the Department amounted to Rs. 16·14 lakhs and receipts to Rs. 3·09 lakhs.

Instruction.—For the first time in the history of the Presidency the number of pupils in recognised educational institutions in British Districts exceeded one million, the exact total being 1,037,061. There was an increase of 557 in these institutions which now number 14,371. Progress was also shown in the percentage of the population attending school, the figure for males being 8·56 as against 8·11, and for females 2·25 as against 2·14. Out of a total of 26,731 towns and villages, 10,237 possessed schools, the average area served by each school being 12·1 square miles.

The total expenditure on Public Instruction now amounts to 376½ lakhs, or 37½ lakhs more than in the previous year. Government continued to bear the major part of the cost, their contribution being 51·1 per cent., Municipal Board funds contributed 17·4 per cent., District Local Board funds 3·4 per cent., fees and other sources 11·6 per cent. Nearly half of the expenditure was absorbed by Primary Schools, the total being Rs. 181 lakhs, exclusive of expenditure on inspection, instruction and repairs.

Progress under the Primary Education Act of 1923 was slow. While 21 District Local Boards and 34 Municipalities had taken over the control of Primary Education, none of the local authorities had introduced compulsory primary education

under the Act of 1923 during the year under review, although four local authorities and municipalities had introduced compulsory education within their limits under the Act of 1918. Steps, however, had been taken by three District Local Boards and six Municipalities in this direction who formulated schemes, and submitted them to Government for consideration. On Secondary Schools the expenditure amounted to over 70 lakhs, a rise of more than 4½ lakhs.

The Honourable the Minister for Education in his speech during the Budget debate, after a reference had been made to low taxation in Bengal, gave a few figures illustrating the cost of education in the two Presidencies, taking the year 1921-22 as the basis of comparison. In Bengal the average cost of educating a pupil in a primary school was Rs. 4·1 but in Bombay in the same year it was a little over Rs. 18. Primary Education in Bombay cost 4½ times more than in Bengal and, although the population in Bengal was nearly 2½ times that of Bombay, the total expenditure on Primary Education was only Rs. 45 lakhs whereas in Bombay in the same year it was 1 crore and 25 lakhs. This worked out at 1 anna 6 pies per head in Bengal as compared with a little over annas ten in Bombay. On Secondary Education Bombay spent Rs. 68·1 per pupil against Rs. 30·3 in Bengal.

Law and Justice.—Legislation during the year under review considerably increased in volume as compared with the previous year. Twenty Acts became law as against fourteen in the preceding year. One of the most important of these enactments related to the amendment of the City of Bombay Municipal Act, 1888, which brought elections to the Corporation into line with elections of other bodies by the introduction of the system of voting by ballot. By the amendment of the Bombay Rent Acts protection was given to tenants for another period of three years in respect of premises of certain rental value used wholly or principally as a dwelling house. The law relating to Co-operative Societies was also amended and consolidated by a fresh enactment providing for a better classification of the various societies and for the introduction of a clear-cut system for the winding-up and

dissolution of societies on the lines of the Indian Companies Act. The transfer of the work of the Improvement Trust to the Corporation of Bombay was sanctioned by a special enactment which conferred upon the Corporation certain rights hitherto enjoyed by the Board of Trustees while at the same time it constituted a special Committee of the Corporation called the "Improvements Committee" to carry on, subject to the control of the Corporation, the work of the Improvement Trust.

As a piece of social legislation the Bombay Children's (Amendment) Act deserves special mention. This provides penalties for being drunk while in charge of a child, for giving intoxicating liquor to a child, for selling tobacco to a child or young person and other similar offences.

Four more important enactments of the year related to the raising of the revenues of the Presidency including—

(1) a tax on totalisator betting;

(2) the continuance of increased Stamp fees; and

(3) a levy on the transfer of land in the City of Bombay.

There were twenty-two Government Bills this year and eighteen private bills. Of the Government bills fourteen became law while of the private bills two were passed into law, three were read for the first time and referred to Select Committee and four were merely published in the *Bombay Government Gazette*. In two cases motion for the first reading was lost while seven bills were either withdrawn or otherwise not moved.

There were 232,000 civil suits for trial before all courts in the Presidency, of which 179,000 were before the mofussil courts and over 40,000 in the Presidency Court of Small Causes. The total number of suits for trial at the High Court was 7,896. Institution of suits in the courts subordinate to the High Court showed an increase by 6,468 on the figures of the previous year, the total being 124,170. The aggregate value of these suits was Rs. 4,25,60,757. The increase occurred in money suits and title suits to the extent of 6·2 per cent. and 3 per cent. respectively.

There were 213,203 criminal offences reported during the year, showing an increase of 7,121 over the figures of the previous year. The increase was noticed particularly in the districts of Poona, Nasik, Bombay Suburban, West Khandesh, East

Khandesh and in the City of Bombay, while there was a marked decrease in Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Dharwar. The aggregate number of persons brought to trial before the Magistrates was 133,330. Of these 41,074 were dealt with by stipendiary magistrates and 91,196 by Honorary and Bench Magistrates.

The total receipts from courts amounted to Rs. 85·3 lakhs while the expenditure amounted to Rs. 51·7 lakhs.

Police and Crime.—An outstanding feature of the year 1925 was acute communal tension in many places particularly between Hindus and Mahomedans over the perennial question of the playing of music before mosques. This led to a few riots, the most serious being that which occurred at Sholapur on 28th October 1925 in connection with the "Rath Procession." In Ahmedabad there was a good deal of feeling over the alleged kidnapping and murder by Khojas of a Koli boy at Patri. Ratnagiri witnessed a riot of a different nature, where some Hindus attacked a number of missionaries as the result of a totally unfounded rumour that they had kidnapped a woman. Later, there was a fatal outbreak at Burondi over the question of Hindus playing music before mosques. The political situation generally was quiet throughout the year.

A notable feature of the year was a welcome fall of 420 cases in serious crime as compared with the figures for the previous year, the total number of cases reported under this head being 23,713 as against 24,133 in 1924. The reduction was the result of prolonged operations by the police which culminated in the rounding up of several gangs of outlaws and dacoits of the most desperate character. The operations cost Government some lakhs, as special parties and additional police had to be entertained in several areas, but the extra expenditure has brought comparative peace to a number of districts.

The total number of cognisable and non-cognisable offences reported to the Police was 141,991 as against 137,566 in the preceding year, an increase of 4,425 under all classes. The rise indicated by these figures was caused almost entirely by reported non-cognisable crime. The incidence of the crime for the year under report in the Presidency including Sind, was

the same as in 1924, namely, 1·77 per thousand of population. The ratio of incidence between the Presidency and Sind was practically unchanged, that is, 1·39 for the former and 3·62 for the latter in 1925 as compared with 1·40 and 3·61 in 1924. In the Presidency proper the Bombay Suburban District was again the most criminal (4·63) and Ratnagiri the least criminal (·42). In Sind the corresponding districts were again Karachi Head Quarters (6·87) and Thar Parkar (2·02). Speaking of the high incidence of reported crime per mille of the population obtaining in the Bombay Suburban District, the Inspector General of Police observes that the problem of policing the Bombay Suburban District is fraught with many difficulties which do not obtrude themselves in the average district. The district is within easy reach of the criminal fraternity of Bombay City, and, as it develops, it will become more and more worth their attention. The police, meanwhile, are on a rural basis and the odds are therefore greatly in favour of the criminal. Matters will not be on a satisfactory footing until the development of the area has reached the stage at which its police can be handed over to the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, to be administered as an integral part of the City Police Force. Among the needs of the Department the Inspector General of Police again dwells on the urgency for the establishment of a Detective Training College and reorganisation of the Presidency Criminal Investigation Department.

The total number of undetected cases during the year was the lowest during the last triennium, *i.e.*, 10,786 as against 11,314 in 1924 and 11,796 in 1923. The sanctioned strength of the Police stood at 1,083 officers and 22,141 men, at a total cost of Rs. 1,33,68,191. The average cost per policeman decreased from Rs. 558-15-6 to Rs. 552-7-0 during the year under report.

Bombay City Police.—The total figures of cognisable crime for 1925 was 100,629, an increase of 977 as compared with 1924 and an increase of 9,987 as compared with 1923. An analysis of these figures shows that the results were satisfactory because the total was made up of 9,603 Indian Penal Code cases and 91,026 Local Act cases. The Indian Penal Code cases are offences against society which it is the primary duty of the police

to prevent, or if they are committed, to detect. The Local Act cases are mainly breaches of rules or by-laws. If the figures for Indian Penal Code cases are unduly high and remain high or show a tendency to increase, the criminals are clearly more than a match for the police. If the figures are low or if there is a progressive improvement, the police may reasonably claim that they have crime under control or are in process of getting it under control. An increase in the Local Act cases does not mean an increase in crime ; it merely means that the police are more active. In fact, the best indication of the efficiency of the police is a substantial decrease in Indian Penal Code cases and a substantial increase in the Local Act cases. In 1925 the number of Local Act cases was the highest recorded so far as the police records show, while the number of Indian Penal Code cases was the lowest recorded since the year 1917. There was a substantial decrease in every class of preventible offence, rioting, dacoity, robbery, house-breaking and theft. There were increases in rape, grievous hurt and kidnapping but there were, at the same time, decreases under culpable homicide, criminal force to public servants, etc. The total number of cases of all classes remaining undetected was 4,207 or 4·14 per cent. as against 5 per cent. in 1924.

For the first time for some years there was no Pathan scare in 1925 and in the opinion of the Commissioner of Police there are greater menaces in Bombay than the Pathan menace and one of them is the presence of habitual criminals, whose main occupation is the commission of crime. Most of the worst criminals do not belong to any known criminal tribe and therefore cannot be dealt with under the Criminal Tribes Act. Most of them have no habitation and no work except casual labour. Many of these habituals have ten or twenty previous convictions and, in the opinion of the Commissioner, just as law provides for putting members of criminal tribes away in settlements, so should it provide for the removal of habituals of the above sort who are in many cases worse than the worst member of any criminal tribe.

The traffic problems still continue to absorb the attention of the police in an increasing measure. Referring to the

discipline in the Force, the Commissioner reports a large increase in the number of punishments inflicted during the year. Though it is a common complaint that the public give little or no assistance to the police, the fault is not all on the side of the public. Co-operation in full measure cannot be hoped for till the police win public confidence. It is unfortunately true that they have not won it yet. In regard to honesty, the Commissioner observes that in the matter of registration and investigation of crime the standard of honesty is very high and that he is not afraid of comparison with any Police Force on that point; but there are side lines in which there is much room for improvement.

Public Health.—The year 1925 marked the close of a triennium which has been in several ways a very important one in the history of hospital organisation and medical education in this Presidency. As a result of constant representations by the General Medical Council of Great Britain the defects in medical education have been largely removed and adequate training facilities have been provided in many directions.

The need for an extension of medical aid was early realised by His Excellency the Governor soon after he assumed charge of his office in December 1923 and efforts were made to improving the existing institutions and provide additional accommodation. At a citizens' meeting held on December 9, 1925, it was decided that a combined effort should be made by the Government and the Municipality on the one hand and the public on the other to organise a definite scheme of hospital expansion. It was laid down that an eventual expansion of 2,000 beds should be aimed at for providing adequate medical relief in the City of Bombay, but in view of the existing financial conditions it was considered that it would only be possible to attempt in the immediate future to set up about 850 beds. The appeal to the public, followed by the establishment of the necessary machinery for the collection of funds, has enabled funds to be raised more than sufficient to finance the first year's programme. In furtherance of this programme it is proposed to add about 300 more beds to the J. J. and allied hospitals in Bombay in the near future at the joint expense of Government and the Sir Leslie Wilson Hospital Fund. Moreover, it is also proposed to build a second

new pavilion of 100 beds in the J. J. Hospital from the Ellappa Balaram donation.

The question of medical expansion in the mofussil is also partly one of education, as well as hospital accommodation, and it had been realised for many years that the mofussil medical schools were in great need of improvement. Despite the present financial difficulties, Government have made provision for the construction of laboratories at both the Poona and Ahmedabad Medical Schools and very extensive additions and alterations at the Civil Hospitals associated with the Schools. They have also been taking steps to extend the existing facilities for special subjects and services, such as ophthalmology, venereal diseases, throat, nose and ear diseases, and radiology.

The improvement of the Nursing service has also engaged the attention of Government and a proposal is under consideration for the engagement of a literate class of ward attendants to do duty where trained nurses are not available. The village aid scheme recently introduced is making satisfactory progress and at present 30 village schoolmasters who received a course of training in first aid and the treatment of simple ailments—they are known as *Upacharaks*—are established in villages of 1,000 to 1,500 inhabitants. These are highly spoken of by the local officials and other interested observers and there is a demand for an extension of the scheme. A proposal to subsidise private practitioners to induce them to settle in the districts has also been before Government for some time, but it could not be given effect to for want of funds. It is fraught with considerable possibilities and would work well in association with the *Upacharaks*. Subsidised regular practitioners would naturally not be available for villages of the size served by the latter and the two would be complementary to each other.

Apart from the Government institutions, several important developments have taken place under other agencies. The King Edward Memorial Hospital in Bombay, which is under Municipal control, marked an epoch in the medical history of the city, and the Wadia Maternity Hospital adjoining is assured, when completed, of a large number of cases, owing to the popularity of the temporary institution which is already working under the same name.

The year was also remarkable in another direction. With the exception of 1922, it was the healthiest since 1887. A fall in the actual number of deaths occurred under practically all the separate major headings of causes of death. Thus, comparing the figures with those of the preceding year " intestinal diseases " show a reduction of 28 per cent., " fevers " 14 per cent., " other causes " 12 per cent., and " respiratory diseases " 9 per cent. while the chief epidemic diseases—cholera, small-pox, plague and influenza combined show a reduction of 37 per cent. Only plague showed a slight increase over last year. But for this, the total death-rate would have been lower even than in 1922. The most noticeable feature of the year was the almost complete absence of cholera, only 57 deaths having occurred throughout the Presidency. There was also a satisfactory drop in the figures for respiratory diseases, dysentery and diarrhœa, and " other causes," all of which showed an upward tendency in 1924.

The total expenditure amounted to 54·75 lakhs.

Salt.—An important feature of the year was the transfer of the control of the Salt Department to the Central Board of Revenue which took place in January 1926. The Collector of Salt Revenue, however, continues to be under the control of the Local Government for the purposes of the administration of the Indian Ports, Landing and Wharfage fees and the Merchant Shipping Act. The total quantity of salt issued and imported for consumption in the Presidency proper was 37 lakhs maunds, an average of 13·63 lbs. per head of population. In Sind the corresponding issues were 4·7 lakhs maunds with an average of 11·78 lbs. per head of population.

The recent introduction of the Salt Export Rules has removed restrictions on the export of salt manufactured in the Presidency and Sind and will, it is believed, help the manufacturers to extend their business. Salt can now be exported free of duty from salt works to all destinations outside India.

Excise.—The total decrease in revenue from the sale of country spirits alone was nearly 27 lakhs, the net decrease in excise revenue being over 26¼ lakhs less than in the previous year. In spite of the fact that there was a further reduction

by 5 per cent. in the mofussil and 10 per cent. in the town and island of Bombay in the ration fixed for the year, the consumption did not touch the ration of 1,883,804 gallons by over 478,000 gallons. The actual consumption was 1,405,437 gallons. From the financial point of view these figures are disquieting and while they would seem to point to less drinking, in fact the ration is not worked up to because the licensees find they can cover their profit by charging very high prices from smaller sales. The apparent deficiency in consumption is, it is suggested, made up in Bombay from cheap foreign spirits and up-country by illicit distillation.

The figures for Excise crime showed an increase over the previous year due, apparently, to the strengthening of the preventive staff. The total number of cases detected was 5,214 as against 4,964 in the previous year. Cases of illicit distillation increased from 2,333 in the previous year to 2,611 in the year under report. Although the number of palm trees tapped decreased, the sales of toddy showed a considerable increase, but adulteration is the explanation given for the figures of greater sales. In the opinion of the Commissioner the revenue figures point very clearly to the discovery of substitutes for licit country spirit. In Bombay City it is largely being supplemented by malted and cheap foreign liquors from the continent of Europe and the Dutch Colonies. Up-country its place is being taken by illicit liquor where distilling bases are cheap and plentiful or by denatured spirit where they are not. Illicit distillation showed a considerable increase and there are good grounds for supposing that the number of cases of this form of excise crime that are brought to book is but a fraction of the total illicit production.

The position with regard to Excise was summed up in a Government Resolution reviewing the Commissioner's report which said :—

"There is no steady movement in favour of abstinence from liquor, and in the rural regions where it flourishes excise crime is not considered reprehensible, but rather is encouraged and concealed. Indeed in those tracts where the Government policy runs counter to public opinion, as for example in West Khandesh, secret, and at times, open and violent resistance is

organised against the efforts of the Excise authorities to check crime. Government must necessarily view these tendencies with apprehension. Open disregard of the excise laws is bound in the end to have a demoralising effect, both upon the public and upon the excise subordinate staff, whose position is one of great difficulty and not infrequently of some personal danger. A considerable increase in this staff is required until a radical change of public opinion is effected, but the revenue to meet the cost is decreasing as the need for it becomes more urgent. Government therefore await with interest the receipt of the report of the Committee appointed to consider alternative sources of revenue."

Forests.—The area under " Forests " is 15,000 square miles which represents roughly 12 per cent. of the entire area of the Presidency. The year was a successful one financially and recorded good progress in respect of works of development and improvement. The gross revenue rose by Rs. 1½ lakhs over the figure of the previous year and Rs. 5 lakhs over the average of the preceding five years, while the surplus was more than the last year by Rs. 86,000 and more than the average of the previous quinquennium by Rs. 6½ lakhs. The construction of over 86 miles of roads was in progress while repairs were carried out on 880 miles of roads.

The outturn of forest produce was 5,999,000 cubic feet of timber and 45,000,000 cubic feet of fuel. Minor produce including bamboos, grass and grazing, and other items was valued at Rs. 12,07,000. Nearly 86 lakhs pounds of grass were baled and stored at Godhra, Dohad and Palghar under the Famine Fodder schemes, bringing the stored amount at these depots up to 313 lakhs of pounds. About 2½ million cattle were admitted to the grazing lands, and the grazing fees collected amounted to Rs. 5,11,000. The area open to grazing was on the whole sufficient everywhere. Closure is relaxed in many cases of hardship. Extensive experiments are being carried out in the Central Circle with a system of partial closure under which greater facilities are made available to the people.

The Forest Grievances Enquiry Committee appointed in January 1925 carried on its investigations visiting the various

areas and recorded evidence at important centres. The report of the Committee has just been submitted and is under the consideration of Government.

Co-operative Movement.—The foremost event of the year was the revision of the constitution of the Central Co-operative Institute. His Excellency the Governor referred to this important change in the course of his speech at the inauguration of the Provincial Co-operative Conference when he said :—

" The main feature of this revision is that it will now be constituted on a broad democratic basis, the main representation being that of primary societies, who will have a large majority on the Boards of Management ; there will also be decentralisation by the formation of District Branches, which will be designated Local Institutes. The Institute is thus now more akin to a Federation of Societies, as in other countries, than constituted on the lines of a single society as before.

" As an instance of the democratic development that has taken place, instead of being *ex-officio* President of the Institute, I shall now be its Honorary Patron. The post of President is now open by election as one of the highest honours to which non-official workers in the Movement can attain, and I congratulate our veteran co-operator and much esteemed public worker, Mr. Devadhar, in being the first person to be elected. A special feature of the new constitution will be the ' Provincial Co-operative Council,' which will be the supreme board of management, and will consist of an exact and proportionate representation of all the primary societies in every part of the Presidency, of members to represent the District Banks, the Department, and the Divisional Branches elected in proportion to their importance, and of a sufficient number of co-opted members. This body, composed of some 100 members, and meeting at least twice a year, will to some extent perform the same functions as are now performed by the Annual Provincial Conference. The result may be that it will not be necessary to convene the Conference every year, and that its meeting at rarer periods will add to the importance and solemnity of the occasions. I have every hope that the ' Provincial Co-operative Council ' will not only secure the orderly development and supervision of every district and

part of the Presidency, but will also act as the interpreter of non-official opinion. Its success will depend on the sacrifice of time and money which its members are prepared to make in attending its meetings, which will of necessity be at a distance from the homes of the majority, and I have no doubt that they will appreciate the importance of regular attendance."

Progress during 1925-26 continued to be uniform and satisfactory.

The total number of societies rose from 4,126 to 4,656; 590 new societies being registered and 60 cancelled, while the number of members rose by 55,645 from 392,163 to 447,808. Working capital showed a large increase of 167 lakhs or 23 per cent., and the total working capital of the movement has now reached a figure of over 878 lakhs.

As regards Agricultural Societies the main features were a large increase of societies in East and West Khandesh and in Sind, better financing and development of the non-credit side of the movement more especially in the case of Cotton and Joint Land Improvement Societies.

As regards district and urban banks Thana District Bank which had not been able adequately to perform its functions was absorbed in the Bombay Provincial Bank; on the other hand many other district banks engaged a fuller and better paid staff, and were thus more efficient; both district and urban banks made an increased use of the Cheque and hundi system.

In the case of housing societies progress was made in Karachi and Dharwar. A beginning in the work of removing the congestion in that city was made by the registration of a housing Society in Ahmedabad.

Public Works.—Steady progress was made on the Lloyd Barrage and Canals Construction. The scheme which is estimated to cost 1,835 lakhs consists of the construction of a Barrage across the Indus three miles below the gorge at Sukkur, three canals on the right and four on the left bank, commanding about 7½ million acres which will enable over five million acres of crops to be irrigated annually. The total length of the canals and branches is nearly 1,600 miles and that of the distributaries 3,700 miles. At Sukkur two townships have been constructed

to facilitate the execution of the works by housing the great army of workers employed and to be employed on the scheme. A large electric generating station has been erected and three quarries opened to provide the stone for the Barrage. The erection and launching of barges and pontoons for the river fleet and the construction of deep water walls on either bank of the river was undertaken during the year. A network of broad gauge railway lines has been laid in the works area and quarries on both banks, and about 30 miles of line and sidings are now in use, together with eight locomotives and hundreds of wagons.

During the year the four canal circles were occupied mainly in ordinary and contour surveys, designing of canals, etc. A great deal of excavation work, however, was done, principally by the great dragline excavators. In the North-Western Circle the total quantity of material excavated was about 7 crores cubic feet; in the Western Circle 3½ crores cubic feet; and in the Rohri Canal Circle 8½ crores cubic feet. The total quantity of excavation and earthwork done up to date on all the canals was approximately 25 crores cubic feet equivalent to the removal of a cube of earth 630 feet long, 630 feet wide and 630 feet high.

As regards the existing canals in Sind the inundation of 1925 was a moderate one. Owing to the early fall of the river there was deficiency of supply in the canals but by rotations crops were saved. There were a few serious breaches in the Indus Right Bank Circle.

The progress made in the construction of irrigation works in the Deccan was satisfactory. The Bhandardara dam, which is the highest in India, has just been completed, and the Lloyd dam, which is the largest in mass of masonry in the world, is nearing completion. Irrigation from the great lakes formed by these dams is rapidly being developed in the valleys below them, the Bhandardara dam supplying the Pravara Canals and the Lloyd dam supplying the large Nira Canals system. Irrigation in the Pravara area has grown very rapidly, and lands on these canals are now covered with valuable sugarcane crops where before hardly any crops could be grown. The Nira Valley Project, consisting of the new Nira Right Bank Canal and extension of the Nira Left Bank Canal, will, when completed, command

a total culturable area of about 6¾ lakhs of acres, and this scheme will then be the largest in the Deccan. The completion of the great storage works at Bhandardara and at Bhatgar will allow of considerable extension of the total irrigable area, and when fully developed the present Major Irrigation schemes in the Deccan will be capable of irrigating over 4½ lakhs of acres annually. Government is fully alive to the importance of still further extending the benefits of irrigation in the Deccan, and with the object of advancing progress in the neighbourhood of Poona, the old Poona Irrigation Division has been split up into two Divisions, one of which is taking up the preparation of a project for the improvement and extension of the Mutha Canals system and the other is pushing on with the remodelling of the old Nira Left Bank Canal to utilise the increased supplies from Bhatgar.

In September 1925 Government appointed a Special Officer, a Superintending Engineer in the Public Works Department, to investigate the question of minor irrigation works such as wells, bandharas, tanks, etc., and of village water supply as measures for the prevention of famine. This officer works under the Revenue Department and the work is financed from the Famine Fund. Satisfactory results have been obtained in both directions. Government also appointed an expert Water Diviner to ascertain where wells could be sunk for various purposes, special attention being devoted to the famine tracts.

Bombay Development Department.—In presenting the Budget the Finance Member said that Government had already curtailed very largely the original programme of the development of Bombay outlined in 1923-24. It was at first proposed to spend 9 crores on the working classes Housing Scheme. The demand for accommodation having fallen, Government had cut down the programme from 50,000 tenements to 16,000, from 9 crores to 3½ crores. On the development of suburbs the operations had been reduced to Rs. 3 crores. In regard to Back Bay for which 8½ crores were estimated in 1923-24 the liability was reduced to 6½ crores. The capital liabilities of the Development Department up to the end of the year 1926-27 were estimated at 1,438 lakhs inclusive of interest. The total

debt charges in 1926-27 would be 88½ lakhs and 46 lakhs of these would be paid from revenue, 20 lakhs representing interest and sinking fund on the estimated loss of 3 crores on the Back Bay reclamation.

During the year ending 31st March 1926 the first instalment of the Industrial Housing Scheme was completed and no further extension is contemplated. Work on suburban schemes remained practically in abeyance.

Back Bay Reclamation Scheme.—Owing to the closing down of work on the sea wall and the majority of the storm-water drains, the output of stone was much less than in former years, and during the greater part of the year, the rolling stock was employed in running dry earth filling from the quarry at Kandivli.

Out of a total length of 21,578 feet, the sea wall has been completed to 19,728 feet, leaving a gap of 1,850 feet remaining to be done.

At Marine Lines a bank of moorum was tipped on the inside of the sea wall from zero to the cross bund at Churchgate Station, so as to render the rubble mound impervious and prevent the escape of dredged filling from block 1. Similar precautions were taken at Colaba. Filling with building rubbish brought by lorries was commenced near Churchgate Station, and over 16 lakhs cubic feet had been deposited at the close of the year.

A considerable quantity of surfacing with dry earth was carried out at the extreme south of the military area.

From the annual report of the Sanitary Committee, it appears that the sanitary conditions at Colaba have not been adversely affected by the pumping operations.

Industrial Housing in Bombay.—During the financial year 1924-25 it was decided by Government that the Industrial Housing Scheme should, for the present, be restricted to the construction of 121 chawls at Worli, 32 at DeLisle Road, 42 at Naigaum and 16 at Sewri. Owing to certain difficulties at Sewri, 4 chawls there have been omitted, the remainder of the chawls numbering 207 being completed in all respects, including water-supply, sewerage, storm-water drainage and lighting. At Worli, DeLisle Road and Naigaum the roads and open spaces

have been lighted by electricity, but current is not at present available at Sewri. The earlier chawls fitted with concrete windows were altered and shuttered windows of the ordinary type provided. Except at Sewri there was a sudden fall in the number of occupied rooms, from the end of September 1925, mainly due to the mill strike. An appreciable increase was, however, evident from the middle of January 1926, when the strike ended. Towards the end of the year the demand was again normal. On the whole, the demand for rooms in the various centres was more satisfactory this year than in the previous year, due probably to the additional conveniences afforded to the tenants by the substitution of open wooden windows for the closed cement ones, and the supply of water throughout day and night. One chawl at Naigaum was converted into two- and three-roomed tenements with separate water taps. There was a good demand for shops at DeLisle Road, the demand at Naigaum and Worli being poor. The ground floor of a chawl at Worli has been converted into a market which will be opened as soon as the Municipality grants a license.

Suburban Schemes.—The slight improvement in the land market in the suburban area which was noticeable last year continued during the year as was evinced by the steady increase in the number of persons applying for advances under the State-aided building scheme. The number of persons who were granted advances during the year was 33 as against 19 in 1924-25, the total amount of advances on land and building being Rs. 2,85,215, against Rs. 1,43,081 in the previous year. Apart from the extensions of the water-supply and the prospect of an electric train service in the near future, the suburban area is now assured of a supply of electric power for lighting and other purposes.

Negotiations are being carried on with the G. I. P. Railway, under which it is proposed to entrust to that Railway the entire working of the Salsette-Trombay Railway as a tram service on behalf of Government and to transfer to it the Kurla-Trombay line on certain conditions.

PART II

CHAPTER I

INDIAN STATES

THE territories under the rule of Indian Princes and Chiefs in political relations with the Government of Bombay extend over an area of 28,562 square miles, or less than one-fourth of the entire area of the Presidency. The variety of the relations which, under the terms of the several treaties, subsist between the British Government and the rulers of the different States and the general superintendence exercised by Government as the Paramount Power, necessitate the presence of an Agent or representative at the principal Courts. The smaller and less important States are either grouped together under the general supervision of a Political Agent or are looked after by the Collectors of the districts within the local limits of which they may happen to be situated. The position of the Agent varies, roughly speaking, with the importance of the State. In some cases he does little more than give advice and exercise a general surveillance. In other cases Agents are invested with a direct share in the administration; while States in which the ruler is a minor are directly managed by Government Officers or under arrangements approved by Government. In connection with the administration of the two last named classes of States, a large amount of judicial work devolves on the Governor in Council, in criminal cases as a Court of Reference and Appeal, and in civil matters as a Court of Appeal.

The Gujarat States fall into two groups. The North Gujarat States lie mostly to the North of the Narbada and include the Rewa Kantha, Mahi Kantha and Kaira Agencies. The South Gujarat States, which lie to the south of the Tapti, are those in the Surat Agency.

The Maratha States fall into four groups. The North and South Konkan groups lie below the ghats to the north and south of Bombay respectively. The Deccan and the Southern Maratha Country States are situated in the central and southern portions of the Bombay Deccan. The province of Sind contains one State. The Settlement of Aden, including Perim, directly administered by the Government of Bombay, is also included in this review.

The population of these states is about four millions and their revenue nearly five crores.

I. North Gujarat

1. MAHI KANTHA

Ruling Prince with a salute of 15 guns—

His Highness Maharaja Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Daulatsinhji Pratapsinhji, K.C.S.I., Maharaja of Idar; *Residence*—Himatnagar; *Caste*—Rathod Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—49; *Educated* at the Nobles' School at Jodhpur and the Mayo College at Ajmere; *Has male heir.*

Ruling Prince with a salute of 9 guns—

Maharana Shri Bhawanisinhji Hamirsinhji, Maharana of Danta; *Residence*—Danta; *Caste*—Parmar Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—26; *Has no male heir.*

The Rao of Pol—

Rao Shri Hamirsinhji, Rao of Pol; *Residence*—Pol; *Caste*—Rathod Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—22; *Educated*—Scott College, Sadra.

Area—3,124 square miles; *Population (1921)*—450,478; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 23¼ lakhs; *Tribute to His Highness the Gaikwar of Baroda by Idar*—Rs. 30,340; *by small States and Talukas*—Rs. 91,328; *Principal articles of production*—Wheat, gram, cotton, bajri, jowari and all common grains, marble and chalk.

In addition to these three States, the Agency includes 49 small States and Talukas.

Maharana Shri Hamirsinhji of Danta died on 19th November 1925.

The rainfall was deficient and unseasonable. Due to want of rain in September and October, the outturn of monsoon crops varied from 6 to 8 annas in the rupee, while that of winter crops varied from 8 to 12 annas in the rupee. Fodder and water were insufficient at a few places.

The total expenditure amounted to nearly Rs. 27 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 3 lakhs (the total strength of the Police in the Agency being 1,404); Prisons Rs. 9,400; Public Works Rs. 2½ lakhs; and Medical Relief Rs. 63,000.

The total number of schools was 162 with 10,689 pupils. The expenditure was Rs. 94,000.

2. REWA KANTHA

Ruling Prince with a salute of 13 guns—

Captain His Highness Maharana Shri Sir Vajayasinhji Chhatrasinhji, K.C.S.I., Maharaja of Rajpipla; *Residence*—Nandod (Rajpipla); *Caste*—Gohel Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—36; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot, and Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun; *Has male heir.*

Ruling Princes with a salute of 9 guns—

Maharaval Shri Natwarsinhji Fatehsinhji, Raja of Chhota Udepur ; *Residence*—Chhota Udepur ; *Caste*—Chavan Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—19 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot.

Captain His Highness Maharaval Shri Sir Ranjitsinhji Mansinhji, K.C.S.I., Raja of Baria ; His Highness has a personal salute of 11 guns ; *Residence*—Baria ; *Caste*—Khichi-Chavan Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—40 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

His Highness Maharana Shri Sir Vakhatsinhji Dalelsinhji, K.C.I.E., Raja of Lunavada ; His Highness has a personal salute of 11 guns ; *Residence*—Lunavada ; *Caste*—Solanki Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—66 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

Nawab Shri Jamiatkhanji Manvarkhanji, Nawab of Balasinor ; *Residence*—Balasinor ; *Tribe and religion*—Babi Pathan, Suni Musulman ; *Age*—32 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot, and Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun ; *Has no heir.*

Maharana Shri Jorawarsinhji Pratapsinhji, Raja of Sant ; *Residence*—Sant ; *Caste*—Puwar Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—45, *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

Area—4,956 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—753,058 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 70¾ lakhs ; *Tribute to His Highness the Gaikwar of Baroda*—Rs. 1,30,801 ; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 24,382 ; *Military Force*—1,755 ; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, wheat, bajri, jowari, cotton, maize, gram, mhowra (flower and seed) and timber ; Akik (cornelian) stone in Rajpipla and Manganese in Chhota Udepur.

The Agency includes also 14 small States and 9 petty Estates.

Rainfall in the latter part of the year being deficient in almost all the States, the crops suffered in consequence, and the outturn was only fairly good.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 76⅛ lakhs.

The total number of schools was 251 and the number of pupils 17,064.

3. CAMBAY

(KAIRA AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 11 guns—

His Highness Nawab Mirza Hussain Yavar Khan Saheb Bahadur, Nawab of Cambay ; *Tribe and religion*—Moghal, Shia Musulman ; *Age*—15. (The State is under administration.)

Area—350 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—71,715 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 9,92,617 ; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 21,924 ; *Military Force*—150 ; *Principal articles of production*—Jowari, bajri, kodra, rice, wheat, cotton, pulses, oil-seeds and tobacco ; *Manufactures*—Cotton and silk cloths, carpets, matches and articles of agate and cornelian stone.

The rainfall was more than sufficient but it was ill-distributed. Owing to the premature termination of the monsoon, all the crops except *bajri* practically failed. The absence of late rains caused the tanks to dry up early and in consequence great difficulty with water supply was again experienced in many villages of the State.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 7½ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 67,500 (the total strength of the Police being 221) ; Prisons Rs. 7,200 ; Public Works Rs. 1 lakh ; and Medical Relief Rs. 25,500.

The total number of schools was 58 with an average attendance of 3,965. The expenditure on education was Rs. 79,600. Education at all the primary schools in the Cambay State has been made free and compulsory in all village boys' schools and in the school for depressed classes in the town.

II. South Gujarat

(SURAT AGENCY)

1. DHARAMPUR, BANSDA AND SACHIN

Ruling Princes with a salute of 9 guns—

Maharana Shri Vijayadevji Mohandevji, Raja of Dharampur ; *Residence*—Dharampur ; *Caste*—Sisodia Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—42 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

Maharaval Shri Indrasinhji Pratapsinhji, Raja of Bansda ; *Residence*—Bansda ; *Caste*—Solanki Rajput, Hindu ; *Age*—39 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

Major His Highness Nawab Sidi Ibrahim Muhammad Yakut Khan, Mubazarat Daula Nasrat Jang Bahadur, Nawab of Sachin. His Highness the Nawab has a personal salute of 11 guns ; *Residence*—Sachin ; *Religion*—Suni Musulman ; *Age*—40 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot, Mayo College, Ajmer, and Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun ; *Has male heir.*

Area—968 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—155,273 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 24½ lakhs ; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 9,154 ; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nagli, gram, pulses, sugarcane, molasses ; *Manufactures*—Cotton cloth.

The season was not satisfactory. The rainfall being insufficient, the general condition of the crops was moderate. The average outturn was about eight annas.

The total expenditure was nearly Rs. 27 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 1 lakh (the total strength of the Police force being 422); Prisons Rs. 3,000; Public Works Rs. 4¾ lakhs; and Medical Relief Rs. 58,700.

The total number of schools was 68, the number of pupils 4,601 and the expenditure Rs. 82,600.

2. THE DANGS

Area—999 square miles; *Population (1921)*—24,576; *Gross revenue including the subsidy of the Dangs Rajas*—Rs. 42,000.

A wild tract thickly covered with forest. The inhabitants belong almost entirely to the forest tribes, mostly Bhils. Owing to the failure of the latter part of the monsoon the crops suffered much. There was no serious difficulty in getting employment as there was a large amount of forest works being carried out every year. With the exception of a little rice and pulse, the crops are confined to the inferior varieties of mountain grains.

The principal item of expenditure was Public Works Rs. 19,100. As regards education, the average number of pupils on roll was 305 with an average attendance of 243.

III. North Konkan

1. JAWHAR (THANA AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 9 guns—

Second Lieutenant Raja Vikramshah Patangshah, Raja of Jawhar; *Caste*—Koli, Hindu; *Age*—40; *Has male heir.*

Area—310 square miles; *Population (1921)*—49,662; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 5,60,000; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nagli, pulses and timber.

The State is populated mostly by hill tribes such as Kolis, Thakurs, Kathodis, etc. They are illiterate and backward and the Darbar is trying to improve their condition by the spread of education.

The rainfall was adequate everywhere and the crops were generally good.

The total expenditure amounted to about Rs. 5⅓ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 13,000 (the total strength of the Police force being 70); Prisons Rs. 737; Public Works Rs. 60,000; and Medical Relief Rs. 7,200.

The total number of schools was 22 with a daily attendance of 448 children. Education is free in all these schools. The expenditure on education was Rs. 13,000.

2. SURGANA (NASIK AGENCY)

Ruling Chief—

Prataprao Shankarrao Deshmukh ; *Residence*—Surgana ; *Caste*—Maratha (Pawar), Hindu ; *Age*—45 ; *Educated* in the Surgana State School ; *Has male heir.*

Area—360 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—14,912 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 62,000 ; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nagli and timber.

The State contains 61 villages, of which 46 are Khalsa and 15 alienated.

The population consists chiefly of Konkani Kunbis and Kolis living in small groups of thatched and mud houses, whose chief occupation is agriculture carried on in the most primitive fashion. They are much addicted to drink, but are peaceful and law-abiding.

The rainfall was much less than last year. The crops were not good and the condition of cattle was only fair. Fodder and drinking water supply were, however, sufficient. The price of grain rose slightly but that of cloth came down.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 60,000, the principal items being Police Rs. 3,000 (the total strengh of the Police being 20) ; and Medical Relief Rs. 1,194.

There are two vernacular primary schools in the Surgana State with an attendance of 80 pupils. The expenditure was Rs. 540.

IV. South Konkan

1. JANJIRA (KOLABA AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 11 guns and, within State limits, of 13 guns—

His Highness Nawab Sidi Muhammad Khan Sidi Ahmed Khan, Nawab of Janjira ; *Residence*—Murud, Janjira ; *Tribe and religion*—Habshi, Suni Musulman ; *Age*—12 ; Being educated at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot.

Area—377 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—98,530 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 7,72,000 ; *Military force*—243 ; *Articles of production*—Rice, nagli, cocoanut, betelnut, fish, bajri, jowari, cotton, hemp and sesamum.

During the Nawab's minority the State with the dependency of Jafrabad is being administered by his mother as Regent assisted by the State Dewan.

The monsoon on the whole was seasonable, the outturn of the crops being from 9 to 11 annas in the State proper and from 4 to 14 annas in Jafrabad.

The State had an import trade werth Rs. 22⅓ lakhs and an export trade of Rs. 18 lakhs. The abkari and forest revenue was Rs. 2¼ lakhs.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 9¾ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 39,500 (the total strength of the Police force being 179); Prisons Rs. 2,200; Public Works Rs. 86,000; and Medical Relief Rs. 20,500.

The total number of schools was 85. The expenditure on education was Rs. 53,000.

There is an Anjuman-i-Islam Institution at Murud supported from popular subscription for encouraging and spreading education in the Muhammadan community.

2. SAVANTVADI (BELGAUM AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 9 guns and, within State limits, of 11 guns—

Captain His Highness Raje Bahadur Shrimant Khem Savant Bhonsle *alias* Bapu Saheb, Sar Desai of Savantvadi; *Residence*—Savantvadi; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu; *Age*—28.

Area—925 square miles; *Population (1921)*—206,440; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 7,63,000; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nachni, vari and cocoanuts; *Manufactures*—Khaskhas, gold-thread and beetle-wing embroidery, horn works, toys and other lacquered wares, etc.

The rainfall was timely and sufficient in the earlier months, but was deficient in the later months. The drinking water was adequate but in the town of Savantvadi a scarcity of water was felt during the two months of April and May owing to the insufficient flow of water from the Kesari head cistern. The outturn of rice and nachni was 10 annas.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 9½ lakhs (for 16 months), the principal items being Police Rs. 99,000 (the total strength of the police force being 323); Prisons Rs. 3,600; Public Works Rs. 1,05,000; and Medical Relief Rs. 39,500.

The total number of schools was 156 with 10,368 pupils. The expenditure on education was Rs. 1,15,000.

V. The Deccan

SATARA JAGHIRS

(SATARA AGENCY)

Ruling Chiefs—

Meherban Bhavanrao Shrinivasrao *alias* Bala Saheb, Pant Pratinidhi; *Residence*—Aundh; *Caste*—Deshastha Brahman, Hindu; *Age*—57; *Educated*—Bombay University; *Has male heirs.*

Lieutenant Meherban Malojirao Mudhojirao *alias* Nana Saheb Naik Nimbalkar ; *Residence*—Phaltan ; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu ; *Age*—29 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

(POONA AGENCY)

Meherban Shrimant Raghunathrao Shankarrao, Pant Sachiv ; *Residence*—Bhor ; *Caste*—Deshastha Brahman, Hindu ; *Age*—47 ; *Educated* privately ; *Has male heirs.*

(SHOLAPUR AGENCY)

Meherban Shrimant Vijayasinh Fatehsinh, Raje Bhonsle ; *Residence*—Akalkot ; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu ; *Age*—10 ; Being educated at Akalkot.

(BIJAPUR AGENCY)

Meherban Ramrao Amritrao *alias* Aba Saheb Daphle ; *Residence*—Jath ; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu ; *Age*—41 ; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot ; *Has male heir.*

Area—3,301 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—402,169 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 23,40,300 ; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 25,839 ; *Military force*—247.

The rainfall was generally insufficient and ill-distributed during the year and consequently the outturn of crops was very poor in almost all the States except Bhor where the crops were good. The season was, on the whole, unfavourable.

There was an epidemic of plague at Aundh and of small-pox at Aundh and Akalkot.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 22½ lakhs, the principal items being Police 89,000 (the total strength of the police force being 527) ; Prisons Rs. 12,800 ; Public Works Rs. 3 lakhs ; and Medical Relief Rs. 18,000.

The number of schools was 235 and the number of pupils 12,800. The expenditure on education was Rs. 1½ lakhs.

VI. Kolhapur and Southern Maratha Country States

1. KOLHAPUR

Ruling Prince with a salute of 19 guns—

His Highness Shri Sir Rajaram Chhatrapati Maharaj, G.C.I.E., Maharaja of Kolhapur ; *Residence*—Kolhapur ; *Caste*—Kshatriya, Maratha, Hindu ; *Age*—28 ; *Educated* in England and Ewing College, Allahabad.

Area—3,217 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—833,726 ; *Tribute to British Government*—Nil ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 87,39,000 ; *Military force*—698 ; *Principal*

articles of production—Jowari, rice, cotton, tobacco, sugarcane, groundnuts, etc.; *Manufactures*—Coarse cotton and woollen cloths, pottery and hardware.

The season was not prosperous owing to the cessation of rainfall during the latter part of the monsoon. There was a good deal of distress in the Eastern parts, especially in Shirol Peta and the Raibag Mahal. In Shirol the pest of locusts appeared in the latter half of November and the crops were devastated by them. The rayats in some villages were in a pitiable condition and His Highness granted postponement of the revenue collection to the extent of Rs. 20,000 till the beginning of the next year.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 81⅓ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 1⅓ lakhs (the total strength of the police force being 833); Prisons Rs. 49,000; Public Works Rs. 6½ lakhs; and Medical Relief Rs. 81,000.

The total number of schools was 710, the number of pupils 40,090 and the expenditure Rs. 4⅓ lakhs.

2. SOUTHERN MARATHA COUNTRY STATES

The Southern Maratha Country States consist of the Mudhol, Sangli, Jamkhandi, Miraj (Senior), Miraj (Junior), Kurundwad (Senior), Kurundwad (Junior), and Ramdurg States. The Rulers of the two States, who have salutes of 9 guns, are :—

1. *Mudhol*—Second-Lieutenant (Honorary) Meherban Sir Malojirao Vyankatrao Raje Ghorpade *alias* Nana Saheb, K.C.I.E., Raja of Mudhol; *Age*—41.
2. *Sangli*—Lieutenant (Honorary) Meherban Sir Chintamanrao Dhundirao *alias* Appa Saheb Patwardhan, K.C.I.E., Chief of Sangli; *Age*—36.

Area—3,032 square miles; *Population (1921)*—608,294; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 1,87,754; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 44,59,000.

The rainfall was unevenly distributed and the Kharif crop suffered in some localities. The outturn of the Rabi crop was generally less than normal. Drinking water was sufficient except in certain areas.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 58 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 3⅓ lakhs (the total strength of the Police force being 1,645); Prisons Rs. 38,700; Public Works Rs. 4½ lakhs; and Medical Relief Rs. 98,000.

The total number of schools was 471 with a daily attendance of 25,956. The expenditure on education was Rs. 3¼ lakhs.

3. SAVANUR (DHARWAR AGENCY)

Ruling Chief—Captain (Honorary) Meherban Abdul Majidkhan Dilerjang Bahadur, Nawab of Savanur ; *Residence*—Savanur (Dharwar) ; *Tribe and religion*—Pathan, Musulman ; *Age*—35 ; *Has male heir.*

Area—70 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—16,830 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 1,74,500 ; *Principal articles of production*—Sadis, cholis and country blankets.

The population of the State consists of agriculturists. The rainfall was sufficient during the year and the harvest was better than last year. The paddy crop was very good but the jowari and cotton crops were fair. Rinderpest broke out in several villages of the State. The stock of fodder was sufficient and the supply of drinking water adequate.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 1¾ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 9,400 (the total strength of the police force being 49) ; Prisons Rs. 1,100 ; Public Works Rs. 23,600 ; and Medical Relief Rs. 3,900.

The total number of schools was 14 and the expenditure Rs. 12,700.

VII. Sind

KHAIRPUR (SUKKUR AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 15 guns and, within State limits, of 17 guns—His Highness Mir Ali Nawaz Khan Talpur, Mir of Khairpur ; *Residence*—Kot-Diji ; *Tribe and religion*—Talpur, Baluch, Musulman ; *Age*—42 ; *Educated*—Aitchison Chiefs' College, Lahore ; *Has male heir.*

Area—6,050 square miles ; *Population (1921)*—193,152 ; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 28,80,115 ; *Military force according to the reorganisation scheme*—301 ; *Principal articles of production*—Fuller's earth, carbonate of soda, cotton, wool, ghee, hides, tobacco and indigo ; *Manufactures*—Cloth, leather, cutlery, cotton, silk and woollen goods, ivory, metal and lacquer wood works, glazed pottery and carpets.

The total area under cultivation was 1,88,000 acres. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 23 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 58,000 (the total strength of the police force being 261) ; Prisons Rs. 15,300 ; Public Works Rs. 2½ lakhs ; and Medical Relief Rs. 36,000.

The total number of schools was 141 with an average daily attendance of 4,928·66.

VIII. Aden

Area (including Perim)—80 square miles; *Population (1921)*—56,500; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 1,09,10,000.

The Political Resident at Aden administers the Settlement of Aden and the Island of Perim.

The Settlement of Aden comprises the following divisions: (1) The Peninsula and Isthmus or Aden proper, (2) Sheikh Othman and (3) Little Aden.

Major-General J. H. K. Stewart, C.B., D.S.O., held charge of the Residency from 1st April to 27th May 1925 and again from 27th July to 31st March 1926 and Major B. R. Reilly, C.I.E., O.B.E., from 28th May to 26th July 1925.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 83½ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 1·90 lakhs; Prisons Rs. 27,000; and Public Works Rs. 99,000.

The total number of Government schools was 5 and the number of pupils 411. The number of private schools was 37 and the number of pupils 2,133. The total expenditure on education was Rs. 17,000.

Condition of the People

The year, on the whole, was unfavourable and the rainfall though scanty and uneven was sufficient in almost all the States. Owing to the cessation of rainfall during the latter part of the monsoon, the outturn of the crops was fairly good. There was general depression in trade. The labouring classes fared better, as there was no scarcity of labour. The general health of the people was good. There was no epidemic except a mild outbreak of plague and small-pox in some places. Supplies of fodder and water were adequate and the condition of agricultural stock good.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

LAND RECORDS

THE functions of the Land Records Department are to provide statistics necessary for sound administration in all matters connected with the land, to reduce, simplify and cheapen litigation in the Revenue and Civil Courts, to provide a Record of Rights for the protection of all who hold interests in land and lastly to simplify and cheapen periodical settlement operations.

The Land Records staff consists of a Director of Land Records, who is also Settlement Commissioner, four Superintendents of Land Records, District Inspectors and Circle Inspectors. The function of the Director of Land Records has been limited to inspection and advice, and he has been expressly excluded from control over the district establishments, which are subordinated to the Collectors.

A complete record of rights and interests in lands has been prepared for all unalienated villages throughout the Presidency and steps are being taken to prepare it for alienated villages also. The record has proved of very great value to the land revenue administration and to the public at large who were not slow in realising its importance as an authentic record of their titles.

City surveys form an important part of land records. Such surveys have now been introduced in Bombay City and in most of the important cities and towns in the Presidency. The progress of this work is being maintained. Suitable arrangements have also been made for the maintenance of city survey records after completion. In Bombay a special office, *viz.*, the Bombay City Survey and Land Records Office, does this work under the control of the Collector of Bombay.

On account of the close connection which necessarily exists between the record of rights and the deed registration which is the business of the Registration Department, the offices of the Director of Land Records and Inspector General of Registration are placed under the control of one officer who holds both appointments. This officer also exercises general control over the work of the Photozincographic Press at Poona.

GUJARAT TALUKDARS' ACT

Under the provisions of various Acts including the Gujarat Talukdars' Act, the Court of Wards Act, Guardian and Wards Act, etc., Government is empowered to take over the management of estates whose owners by reason of minority, incapacity, etc., are not considered capable of looking after them. A large number of these are in the Ahmedabad district where in all there are 42 estates managed by the Collector who is the Talukdari Settlement Officer.

The revenue demand including past arrears was over Rs. 5½ lakhs, out of which Rs. 4¼ lakhs were recovered.

The total rental demand of the estates under management including arrears of past years was nearly Rs. 2 lakhs, out of which over Rs. 1 lakh were collected and Rs. 36,888 were written off.

There were 19 sons of Talukdars receiving education at the Talukdari Hostel at Dhandhuka at the close of the year as against 15 last year.

More than three-seventh of the estates were released from management during the year. Efforts are being made to withdraw management from many more estates and to ensure that Talukdars have the same facilities for credit as otner landowners.

SIND INCUMBERED ESTATES ACT

The Sind Incumbered Estates Act, of 1881, was passed by the Government of India in order to amend the law providing for the relief of Jagirdars and Zamindars in Sind and this Act was further amended in 1896. The management of such estates in Sind is undertaken upon an application by the landholder and a Special Officer designated "Manager, Sind Incumbered Estates" has been appointed to supervise the management of these estates under the control of the Commissioner in Sind. There has been a steady decrease in the number of estates under management in recent years, the number in 1923-24 being 146 as against 278 in 1911-12 and 292 in 1915-16. The estates are leased to outsiders or to the estate owners, but generally to the owners whenever this is possible.

Twenty-six new estates were taken under management, and 20 were released, leaving 143 under management at the close of the year as against 137 last year. The revenue was about Rs. 10 lakhs and the cost of management was slightly increased from 6·16 per cent. to 6·23 per cent.

LIBRARY OF THE

THE COURT OF WARDS ACT

The Bombay Court of Wards Act was passed in 1905. Under this Act the Commissioners of Divisions are the Courts of Wards for the limits of their Divisions. With the sanction of Government, they assume superintendence of estates of landholders who, on account of minority or physical or mental defects or infirmity, are not qualified to manage the property and also on application by the landholders of estates that are heavily indebted. Suitable arrangements are also made for the education of minor wards.

DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS

The foundation of society and industry in India is in the land and the maintenance of a complete record of all rights is a great bulwark of public peace and of law and order. Moreover without such records it will be impossible to get true statistics of any species of production or any of the other economic facts connected with the land.

A great support of the Indian Administration is the land revenue, the right of the State to share in all the unearned rental values of land. The science of economics and fiscal theory is recognising more and more fully the right of the public to this share and the pre-eminent position, in every scheme of taxation necessary for the maintenance of a modern State, of the land revenue. Survey and classification of land, and a full record maintained not spasmodically but every day as every change occurs, is indispensable for assessment, and collection of land revenue. This is a task which is never completed. It extends to the cities as well as the country-side and forests. Uninteresting and tedious as much of its work must be, nevertheless the work of the Land Records Department lies as the woof and warp underneath all the elaborate material of which provincial administration is composed.

The main function of the Department is to maintain all survey and classification records up to date, and for this purpose to carry out the field operations preliminary to the incorporation of changes in these records. It has further to organise and carry out rural and city surveys on an extensive scale and maintain them in a state of usefulness. Special surveys for private individuals or bodies such as relate to Inam villages, surveys in connexion with Railway or Municipal or Local Board projects, etc., and surveys on behalf of other Departments of Government and Indian States are also frequently undertaken. The

supervision of the preparation and maintenance of the Record of Rights, of the periodical inspections of boundary marks and the introduction of Revenue Settlements complete the function of the Department.

ROUTINE MEASUREMENT WORK

Northern Division.—Twenty Cadastral surveyors and six District surveyors were employed throughout the year, and two Cadastral surveyors for $3\frac{3}{4}$ months only. Six City Survey Maintenance surveyors were also employed on this work for three months. They measured 14,993 new hissas and 2,342 survey numbers on private application; and 3,366 survey numbers on Government account. The total cost of the staff was about Rs. 30,000, while the fees earned (including fees for Government work on the scale charged to the public) amounted to about Rs. 33,000.

Central Division.—Forty-five Cadastral surveyors and seven District surveyors were employed throughout the year. They measured 9,705 new hissas, and 4,864 survey numbers and 8,383 hissas on private application, and 3,256 survey numbers and 3,044 hissas involved in Government work. The cost was Rs. 50,000, while the fees earned (including cost of Government work estimated as above) amounted to Rs. 49,600.

A temporary staff of 107 hands including Nimtandars under two survey Mamlatdars was employed on Sub-Division measurement work. They measured in all 100,220 Sub-Divisions in 139 villages in 7 talukas of the Poona, Sholapur and Satara Districts.

Southern Division.—Twenty-three permanent and 28 temporary cadastral surveyors with 6 District surveyors were employed during the year. They measured 22,269 new hissas and 4,979 survey numbers and 84 hissas on private application and 4,347 survey numbers and 223 hissas involved in Government work. The cost of the establishment was Rs. 48,000, and the fees earned (including cost of Government work estimated as above) amounted to Rs. 50,000.

Besides, five parties of 46 measurers under a Survey Mamlatdar measured 43,609 hissas in 36 rayatwari and 28 khoti villages of Mahad Taluka and yet another party of 7 measurers with one Nimtandar measured 2,536 hissas in two inam villages (Sayali and Dhopeshwar) in the Ratnagiri District. The total cost of this hissas survey which is peculiarly difficult and intricate was Rs. 22,600.

Sind.—The town surveys of Tando Adam and Mirpurkhas were sanctioned and in all 917 theodolite stations and 13,335 properties were reviewed.

The Superintendent of Land Records in Sind tested the work of all city surveys including that of Karachi and tested 261 survey numbers measured by the village establishment.

Bombay Suburban Division.—One hundred and twenty-nine correction cases affecting 1,038 survey numbers and 534 miscellaneous cases were disposed of by the District Survey Office during the year.

REVENUE SURVEYS

Northern Division.—Four Field Party surveyors were employed in Gujarat. They did the survey and classification work in three inam villages. In all they measured 1,280 survey numbers (2,999 acres) and classified 1,087 survey numbers (3,276 acres). In Thana, three Field Party surveyors carried out the survey of N. A. plots in Sanjan, Khatalwada, Malyan and Mahim; survey of new lines (3 miles) opened by the Andhra Valley Power Supply Co.; survey of Taluka Local Board Roads (5½ miles) for correction of survey records; and the survey and classification of khajan lands in Dahanu, Masouli, Narpad and Chikhale for purposes of reclamation. In all they measured 594 survey numbers (1,127 acres) and classified 228 survey numbers (1,644 acres). A special party was further employed in Thana, who surveyed four inam villages, Jagalwadi, Jambivli, Dhoke, Rahatoli under the Minor Triangulation method for purposes of Record of Rights.

Central Division.—Twenty-three Inam villages were dealt with during the year, the measurement and classification operations of 16 of them having been completed by the end of the year. Nine villages were surveyed under the triangulation method, the remaining 14 (having been surveyed many years ago) being done under the partial revision system. One surveyor was deputed for special work in West Khandesh in connection with the classification of forest survey numbers to be given out for cultivation. A special party of 11 measurers was also organised during the year for a complete survey on the Minor Triangulation system of all agricultural lands in unsettled Inam villages in Patan Taluka of the Satara District. Two villages Banpuri and Sanbur were completed during the year, 4,612 hissas in 499 survey numbers and 147 entire survey numbers having been measured by the Party. A further party of 10 measurers with one Head Surveyor organised and placed under the supervision of the D. I. L. R., West Khandesh, carried out the work of restoration of the old survey of 67 villages in the Akrani Mahal.

Southern Division.—Eighteen Field Surveyors were employed during the year. They completed the incomplete classification work in Inam village of Here, classifying 371 hissas, and also the incomplete Plane-table and classification work of the Inam village Punare, dealing with 175 hissas in 97 survey numbers. The survey on the Minor Triangulation method of two other Inam villages, *viz.*, Bedag and Saptasagar of Athni taluka taken up for settlement purposes was also completed. 2,697 holdings were surveyed in these two villages and 1,141 classified. Two Inam villages of Aurwad and Gaurwad in Chikodi taluka of the Belgaum District were similarly surveyed on the Minor Triangulation method for purposes of Record of Rights. Seven hundred and ten holdings were surveyed.

One Field Party Surveyor was employed on fixing boundary marks in Hog Island, the cost of the operations being borne by Sir Mahomed Yusuf.

Bombay Suburban Division.—The surveying staff consisting of one District surveyor, three Circle inspectors and four surveyors have done 747 measurement cases involving 1,390 survey numbers, and 5 classification cases involving 10 survey numbers.

REVISION SETTLEMENTS

Northern Division.—Revision settlements were sanctioned for seven talukas, *viz.*, North Daskroi, Halol, Kalol, Jhalod, Dohad, Kalyan and Murbad. A staff of 60 men with 3 supervisors was employed for calculation of reduction of assessment due to the reclassification of lands in Nadiad, Anand, Borsad, Kapadwanj and Thasra talukas of the Kaira District.

Central Division.—Revision settlements were sanctioned for ten talukas in the Satara District, namely, Satara, Karad, Koregaon, Javli (including Malcolmpeth Mahal), Walva including Shirala Peta, Patan, Man, Khanapur, Wai including Khandala Peta and Khatav ; and for Chalisgaon in the East Khandesh District.

Southern Division.—Revision settlements for two talukas in the Kolaba District, namely, Pen and Alibag, and for four in Ratnagiri, namely, Khed, Deogad, Rajapur and Mandangad (Peta) were sanctioned. Revision settlements of the two inam villages Madh and Sawrolli in Khalapur Peta of Kolaba District were also introduced.

CITY SURVEYS

Northern Division.—The introduction of city surveys into the towns of Dhanduka and Ranpur has been sanctioned, but the actual operations have been suspended, pending satisfactory

arrangements for future maintenance. Thirty-four city surveys are under regular maintenance.

Central Division.—The traverse and detailed measurement work of Lonavla and Mahableshwar was completed. Introduction of city survey into the towns of Ashte and Islampur was sanctioned, but actual operations have been suspended, pending satisfactory arrangements for future maintenance. In all 29 city surveys are under regular maintenance.

Four villages in the East Khandesh District, *viz.*, Bhokri, Tamaswadi, Anchalgaon and Gondgaon, and one village in Poona District, *viz.*, Chinchwad, were brought under the village site survey.

Southern Division.—Nineteen city surveys are now under regular maintenance in the Division. One surveyor under the supervision of the Survey Mamlatdar carried out the survey of nearly nineteen miles of roads and paths, and of 13 new plots at Matheran. The village site survey of Neral was completed.

Sind.—Of the city surveys so far completed, the maintenance work of Shikarpur, Garhi Yasin, Sukkur, Rohri and Hyderabad city surveys continued to be done throughout the year. Maintenance establishment for the city surveys of Larkana and Jacobabad were sanctioned.

Bombay Suburban Division.—In Bandra and Danda 551 properties were revised and 56 theodolite stones were examined; while in the surveyed village sites 331 properties were revised and 6 theodolite stones were examined. Thirty-two encroachments were detected.

General Remarks.—City Survey Maintenance staffs in large towns earn sufficient revenue to pay their cost; in smaller towns the staff is still not self-supporting. To remedy this, to some extent, two or more of the smaller towns are put in charge of one maintenance surveyor, some of his routine and non-technical work being transferred to the Sub-Registrar according to convenience. Direct indexing in the Property Registers by Sub-Registrars is a convenient arrangement by which the Property Index ordinarily maintained in Sub-Registry offices can be dispensed with. The system is being tried in certain towns in all the three Divisions.

The system of writing the Property Register on cards, recently introduced in Broach as an experimental measure, was found to work satisfactorily. It is proposed to extend the system gradually to other city surveys in the Presidency.

One of the main objects of a city survey is to prevent the misappropriation by private individuals, by persistent encroachments of the land set apart for public streets, and other forms of

open spaces so essential to the life of a city. But the authority to deal with these encroachments is vested pre-eminently in the municipalities, and it is regrettable that these bodies rarely make adequate use of the survey. The city survey staff itself, however, is not under the control of the municipalities.

WASTE LANDS

The following table shows the area under cultivation in the Province :—

1925-26

(In thousands of acres)

Division	Total culturable area	Occupied	Balance culturable waste
Northern Division	4,901	4,469	432
Central Division	14,352	13,959	393
Southern Division	7,840	7,615	225
Sind	14,510	8,230	6,280
Bombay Suburban Division	32	24	8
Total ..	41,635	34,297	7,338

CHAPTER III

LAW AND JUSTICE

THE power of making laws "for the peace and good government of the Bombay Presidency" is vested in the Legislative Council of the Governor of Bombay. It consists of 114 members. The four members of the Executive Council are *ex-officio* members, and of the remaining 110, 86 are elected and 24 nominated. Of the nominated members not more than 16 may be officials. The elected members are elected as follows:—

	Members
General constituencies—	
Muhammadan Rural	22
Muhammadan Urban	5
Non-Muhammadan Rural	35
Non-Muhammadan Urban	11
European	2
Special constituencies—	
Land-holders .. .	3
Commerce and Industry	7
Bombay University	1
Total ..	86

Of the members of the non-Muhammadan constituencies 7 must be Mahrattas.

All British subjects of either sex who are over the age of 21 years and possess the necessary property qualification are, subject to certain minor exceptions, entitled to vote in general constituencies. The Government of Bombay has also power to permit subjects of Indian States to be enrolled as electors. The property qualification is fixed by Rules under the Government of India Act and is based, in the case of land, upon the amount of land revenue, and in the case of houses upon the annual rental; in each case tenants as well as landholders are qualified to vote. Besides these all income tax payers and all retired soldiers of His Majesty's regular forces are enfranchised by the same Rules. A general election ordinarily takes place every three years. Before taking his seat every member must make an oath or affirmation of his allegiance to the Crown.

Legislative.—The extent of the power of the Council to make laws is defined by section 80A of the Government of India Act. Generally it may make laws for the peace and good government of the territories constituting the Presidency of Bombay, but certain bills cannot be introduced without the previous sanction of the Governor General. The most important of these are—

(*a*) Bills imposing new taxes, except certain taxes specified in Rules made under the Act such as taxes on non-agricultural land and on amusements, succession duties and judicial stamp duties;

(*b*) Bills affecting the public debt of India or any taxes the proceeds of which go to the Government of India;

(*c*) Bills affecting the navy, army or air force;

(*d*) Bills affecting the relations of Government with foreign princes or states;

(*e*) Bills regulating a "central" subject.

Central subjects are subjects of vital importance or subjects on which it is desirable that policy should be uniform throughout India. Some of the most important are external relations, defence of India, shipping, railways, posts and telegraphs, currency, civil and criminal law, commerce, all sources of all-India revenue and the all-India services. Again under section 80-C of the Government of India Act a bill affecting the public revenues of the province of Bombay or imposing any charge upon them cannot be introduced without the previous sanction of the Governor.

RESOLUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

After non-official bills and motions to amend Standing Orders have been disposed of, any member may during the remaining time allotted to non-official business move a resolution on a matter of general public interest. Fifteen clear days' notice of such resolution must be given before the date appointed for session of the Council.

Every resolution must be in the form of a specific recommendation to Government. The Governor may within the period of notice disallow a resolution or any part of a resolution on the ground that it cannot be moved without detriment to the public interest or that it relates to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the local Government.

No resolution can be moved on any matter which affects the relations of Government with any foreign or Indian State, or relates to the internal administration of any Indian State, or which is *sub-judice*.

Questions for the purpose of obtaining information on a matter of public concern may be asked provided that ten clear days' notice of the question is given. A question may be disallowed on any of the grounds on which a resolution on the subject might have been disallowed, and also on certain other grounds of which the most important are that it must not be in substance a suggestion for any particular action, nor ask for an expression of opinion.

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

Legislation during the year 1925-26 increased in volume as compared with the previous year. Twenty Acts became law, as against fourteen in the previous year, and twenty-two Government Bills and eighteen Private Bills were put forward as compared with sixteen Government Bills and three Private Bills in the preceding year.

One important enactment of the Council related to the Amendment of the City of Bombay Municipal Act, 1888. This Act brought election to the Bombay Municipal Corporation into line with the elections to the other bodies, the system of voting by ballot being introduced.

The further amendments to the Bombay Rent Acts gave protection to tenants for another period of three years in respect of premises used wholly or principally as a dwelling house and of which the standard rent exclusive of the percentage allowable under the principal Act did not exceed Rs. 25 in any place in the Taluka of North Salsette in the District of Thana and the Taluka of South Salsette in the Bombay Suburban District except the villages of Bandra, Santa Cruz and Andheri ; Rs. 50 in the municipal limits of Bandra and the limits of the Notified Areas of Santa Cruz and Andheri in the Taluka of South Salsette in the Bombay Suburban District, and in the municipal district and cantonment of Karachi, and Rs. 85 in any other place.

Another important piece of legislation related to the consolidation and amendment of the law relating to Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency. This enactment provided for a better classification of the various Societies whose objects, finance, and methods of working are different, and for the introduction of a clear cut system for the winding up, liquidation and dissolution of Societies on the analogy of the Indian Companies Act 1913.

An Act was also passed dissolving the Board of Trustees created by the City of Bombay Improvement Act of 1898, and transferring to the Corporation of Bombay the property of the

Board, not absolutely for the general purposes of the Corporation but specially for the purpose of the improvement of the City. This Act conferred upon the Corporation certain rights hitherto enjoyed by the Board of Trustees while at the same time it constituted a Special Committee of the Corporation called an "Improvements Committee" to carry on, subject to the control of the Corporation, the work of the Improvement Trust.

As regards social legislation special mention should be made of the Act amending the Bombay Children Act of 1924. This provided penalties for being drunk while in charge of a child, for giving intoxicating liquor to a child, for selling tobacco to a child or young person, for inciting a child or young person to bet or borrow, and for taking pawn from a child or young person.

Four enactments related to the raising of the resources of the Presidency to meet the growing expenditure. A tax was imposed on totalizator betting by Act VI of 1925. The Indian Stamp Act was further amended with a view to continuing for one year the revised scale of stamp fees fixed by the Indian Stamp (Bombay Amendment) Act of 1922 and also to levy a duty on the transfer of land in the City of Bombay. The Court Fees Act was also further amended for the purpose of increasing the revenue.

Government in 1923 appointed a Committee of Enquiry into the administration of the Bombay Stock Exchange. As a result of their investigations Government introduced a measure for the better administration and control of the Exchange and this measure was passed into law during the year under report.

The remaining Acts of the Council were as follows :—

Act No. II of 1925 (An Act to amend the Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923).

Act No. IV of 1925 (An Act further to amend the Bombay Abkari Act, 1878).

Act No. V of 1925 (An Act to make better provision in the City of Bombay and elsewhere in the Bombay Presidency to prevent the adulteration of articles of food and the sales of such adulterated articles).

Act No. IX of 1925 (An Act further to amend Bombay Act VIII of 1867, being an Act for the Regulation of the Village Police in the Presidency of Bombay).

Act No. XI of 1925 (An Act further to amend Bombay Act No. III of 1874).

Act No. XII of 1925 (An Act further to amend the City of Bombay Municipal Act, 1888).

Act No. XIII of 1925 (An Act further to amend the Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923).

Act No. XIV of 1925 (An Act to amend the Bombay Village Punchayats Act, 1920).

Act No. XV of 1925 (An Act further to amend the Bombay District Municipal Act, 1901, was passed with the object of removing certain disqualifications).

Act No. XVII of 1925 (An Act further to amend the Bombay Port Trust Act, 1879).

Of the twenty-two Government Bills mentioned above, fourteen became law. The remaining Bills reached various stages ; while of the eighteen Bills from private members two were passed and received the assent of the Governor-General, three were read for the first time and referred to Select Committees, four were merely published in the *Bombay Government Gazette*. In two cases motion for the first reading was lost and in one case motion was not made. Three bills were withdrawn, one was ruled out of order, one lapsed owing to its mover having ceased to be a member of the Council, and one was struck off the register.

The budget discussion lasted for 12 days and resulted in a cut of Rs. 17,613. There were 8 divisions none of which, however, was carried against Government. During the year the Standing Orders also underwent some changes but the work of the Council by way of Resolutions increased considerably in volume. Fifty-four Resolutions were moved as against twenty in the previous year and of these fourteen were carried, fifteen negatived, twenty-two were withdrawn, and further consideration of three was postponed. The Resolutions which were carried recommended to Government:—

(1) " That a mixed committee of official and non-official members of the Council, with a majority of the latter, be appointed to inquire into the whole question of the Fallow Rules in Sind and to make such recommendations as they may please for the modifications, revision or repeal of any of the said rules which they consider to operate unfairly upon the zamindar. The Committee should consider whether the zamindars have a lien on forfeited lands and if so on what conditions they should be restored."

(2) " That in each division of this Presidency there should be at least one Mahomedan headmaster, one deputy educational inspector (in addition to one Urdu deputy) and three assistant deputy educational inspectors."

(3) " To be pleased to give every facility to the Mahomedans of the city of Bombay to perform their Id prayers on the Esplanade Maidan twice a year."

(4) "That side by side with Marathi, Urdu classes for the benefit of Mahomedan students should be established from the 4th to 7th standard at the High School at Jalgaon."

(5) "To appoint a Committee to inquire into the causes of the encroachments made by the sea on the western coast of the Presidency and to suggest measures for the prevention thereof."

(6) "To draw up a comprehensive scheme of sanitation and medical relief both in the municipal and rural areas, and place it before the Council so as to reduce the heavy mortality from plague, cholera, malaria and other epidemics in the Presidency."

(7) "To abolish the totalisator in the third enclosure at the race course in Bombay."

(8) "That a small committee consisting of some elected members of the Legislative Council, officials and financial experts, be appointed to consider and report on the financial measures that should be introduced in order to give full effect to the policy of prohibition of the traffic in alcoholic drink and drugs."

(9) "That an Anglo-Urdu middle school for Mahomedan girls should be established at Poona at an early date."

(10) "That early steps be taken to give effect to the resolution of this House regarding the adequate representation of all communities in all the services, especially in the Educational Department and on the clerical staff."

(11) "That the proposal made by the University Reforms Committee regarding the removal of the Ismail College from Andheri to the Fort should not be given effect to."

(12) "To recommend to the Imperial Government to consider the question of giving further opportunities to Mahars of enlisting in the Indian Army."

(13) "Not to purchase coal or any other article which is the produce of that part of South Africa which deals unfair treatment to Indians."

(14) "That a sum of rupees two lakhs to begin with be provided in the next year's budget for being utilized for better provision of infant and maternity welfare by grants-in-aid to existing approved institutions and organisations, such as maternity homes, maternity hospitals, infant welfare centres, movements promoting national baby week or health week celebrations, etc., that need such help on the scale of not less than one-third of the annual expenditure approved by the Civil Surgeons of the districts."

Five motions were moved by Government members and were passed by the Council.

In addition to the above the Council passed two condolence motions in respect of the deaths of Deshabandhu Chittaranjan Das, Member of the Bengal Legislative Council, and of Khan Saheb Karimbaksh Ali Mardan Khan Jatoi and a resolution in appreciation of the services of the Honourable Sir Maurice Hayward, K.C.S.I., I.C.S., during the time he held office as Leader of the House.

Motions for adjournment of the House.—There were two motions for adjournment of the House to discuss definite matters of urgent public importance. Of these one was carried, while the Honourable the President did not give his consent to the other.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The High Court, consisting of a Chief Justice and nine Puisne Judges, has both ordinary and extraordinary civil and criminal jurisdiction and exercises original and appellate functions. The appellate Judges of the High Court also supervise the administration of justice by Subordinate Civil and Criminal Courts. Ordinary original jurisdiction is exercised in matters both civil and criminal, which arise within the limits of the Town and Island of Bombay, but the High Court may in Civil cases remove and itself try any suit brought in any Court under its superintendence, and, in criminal cases, exercise jurisdiction over all persons residing in any place whose Courts are subject to the superintendence of the High Court.

In the Mofussil, the administration of civil justice is, in addition to the High Court and the Court of the Judicial Commissioner of Sind, entrusted to four grades of Courts, those of District and Assistant Judges and of two classes of officers styled, respectively, First and Second Class Subordinate Judges.

The Small Causes Court.—For the more easy recovery of small debts and demands, Courts invested with summary powers have been established in the City of Bombay and in Ahmedabad, Poona and Karachi. The Judges of the mofussil Small Causes Courts have jurisdiction in money suits within the towns where the Courts are situated up to Rs. 500 in value and their decisions are final, save in so far as they are subject to reference on points of law to the High Court or to the supervision of the High Court in its extraordinary jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of these Courts may be extended to Rs. 1,000 and they can also be invested with appellate jurisdiction. The

Presidency Small Causes Court has cognisance in suits not exceeding Rs. 2,000 in value arising within the Island of Bombay.

Criminal Courts.—District and Assistant Judges under the title of Sessions Judges, Additional and Assistant Sessions Judges exercise criminal jurisdiction. But the executive district officers who in addition to their revenue duties are invested with magisterial powers, dispose of original criminal work to a great extent. There are under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, in addition to the High Court, four grades of Criminal Courts—those of the Magistrates of the Third, Second and First Class respectively and the Courts of Sessions.

CIVIL JUSTICE

Bombay Presidency (Proper).—The Bombay Judiciary exercises jurisdiction over an area of 77,275 square miles with a population of 15,859,502. The Civil Judiciary consists of 10 High Court Judges, 16 District Judges, 2 Joint Judges, 9 Assistant Judges, a Chief Judge and 7 Judges of the Small Causes Courts, and 125 Subordinate Judges. With effect from 12th October 1925 two separate Judicial Districts for East and West Khandesh were created in the place of one.

There were over 232,000 civil suits for trial before all the courts in the Presidency, of which 179,000 were before the mofussil courts and over 40,000 in the Presidency Court of Small Causes. The total number of suits for trial at the High Court was 7,896 against 9,887 in the previous year. The number of suits decided was 4,864, leaving an undisposed of balance of 3,032. This number was 745 less than the corresponding number at the end of the previous year.

The number of appeals from the Subordinate Courts dealt with by the High Court was 3,173, of which 1,922 were disposed of.

The number of suits instituted in the civil courts subordinate to the High Court was 124,170, showing an increase of 6,468 on the figures of the previous year. The aggregate value of the suits was Rs. 4,25,60,757. The increase occurred in money and title suits to the extent of 6·2 and 3 per cent. respectively, the number of money suits instituted being 98,626 against 92,893 in 1924 and that of title suits being 25,544 against 24,809. The largest number of suits was instituted in Ahmedabad (18,028), where the number of money suits (15,353) was the heaviest in the Presidency. In no other district except East Khandesh and Poona did institutions exceed 10,000. Institutions were between 9,000 and 10,000 in the district of Nasik, between

7,000 and 8,000 in West Khandesh, between 6,000 and 7,000 in Ahmednagar, Broach and Panch Mahals, Dharwar, Satara, Sholapur and Thana, between 5,000 and 6,000 in Surat, between 4,000 and 5,000 in Belgaum, Bijapur and Ratnagiri, between 3,000 and 4,000 in Kolaba and 2,998 in Kanara which is the lowest figure of institutions.

The number of suits instituted in 1925 at the Presidency Small Causes Court was 34,723 with an aggregate value of Rs. 93,33,998, and the number decided was 34,525. There was an increase in suits not exceeding Rs. 10, Rs. 50, Rs. 100 and Rs. 500, and a decrease in suits exceeding Rs. 500 in value.

The total number of appeals instituted before the Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court was 4,632, of which 4,594 were disposed of.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Criminal Courts in the Presidency are administered by the High Court and Sessions Judges mentioned above, together with 967 Magistrates, 158 Sanitary Committees and Sanitary Boards and 19,713 Police Patils. There were 213,203 criminal offences reported during the year, showing an increase of 7,121 over the figures of the previous year. In the Districts of Poona, Nasik, Bombay Suburban, West Khandesh, East Khandesh and in the City of Bombay there was a noticeable increase in the number of offences reported during the year, while there was a marked decrease in the Districts of Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Dharwar. Of the total number of offences reported 48,371 were under the Indian Penal Code and 164,472 under Special and Local Laws. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the magistrates was 133,330. Of these 41,074 were dealt with by stipendiary magistrates and 91,196 by Honorary and Bench Magistrates. Of the persons tried, 18,899 were acquitted or discharged; 113,371 were convicted. Of the persons convicted, 9,045 were punished with imprisonment, 87,670 with fine, 366 with whipping; while 13,893 convicted persons were warned and discharged, 30 persons were sent to Leper Asylum at Matunga and 1,304 were released on probation of good conduct.

The sentences of imprisonment were as follows :—

Not exceeding	15 days	4,773
,,	6 months	3,829
,,	2 years	443

The fines imposed aggregated to Rs. 4,69,923. Rs. 3,89,990 were realised of which Rs. 21,646 were paid as compensation to complainants.

The total murder cases were 214 as against 216 in the preceding year. They may be classified as follows :—from motives connected with women 55, for the sake of ornaments 1, for the sake of gain 21, and arising out of other causes 137.

The following table shows the number of original and appellate Criminal cases disposed of during the year by the High Court :—

Year	Total number of cases decided			
	Original		Appellate	
	Regular	Miscellaneous	Regular	Miscellaneous
1924	193,400	1,898	2,969	817
1925	204,401	1,344	2,989	904

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Sind.—The Sind Judiciary exercises jurisdiction over an area of 46,506 square miles with a population of 3,279,377.

There was a decrease in the number of criminal cases brought to trial from 32,373 to 32,277 and in the number of persons from 52,229 to 52,090. Out of 52,353 persons tried, 20,901 were convicted, an increase of 1,218 over the previous year. Twenty-three persons were sentenced to death, 44 to transportation, 4,095 to imprisonment, 15,828 to fine, 121 to whipping and 1,099 were ordered to furnish security. The total amount of fines realised during 1925 amounted to Rs. 2·62 lakhs as against Rs. 1·87 lakhs in the preceding year.

The number of offences and attempts at offences affecting life fell from 303 to 272 in the year under report. A large proportion of this class of crime, specially in Karachi, Nawabshah, Thar Parkar and Upper Sind Frontier, arose from intrigues or supposed intrigues with women.

The number of civil suits instituted in Sind during 1925 increased by 668 to 28,812, the total value amounting to about Rs. 184 lakhs. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 7,598.

The total receipts of all courts amounted to Rs. 11 lakhs and the total charges to Rs. 20 lakhs, disclosing a deficit of Rs. 8·88 lakhs as against Rs. 2·94 lakhs in the preceding year.

REGISTRATION

The report on the administration of the Registration Department in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1925 shows a decline in the number of registrations, as compared with the preceding year, from 311,705 to 300,218—a decrease of 3·6 per cent. This was due to a general fall in land values. Documents relating to immovable properties also declined from 304,867 in 1924 to 293,616 in 1925, *i.e.*, 3·6 per cent.

The total gross income of the Department declined from Rs. 12·93 lakhs to Rs. 12·41 lakhs or by 4·04 per cent., which was due to the decrease in the number of registrations. The total *pro forma* expenditure also declined from Rs. 7·32 lakhs to Rs. 7·30 lakhs. The decrease is mostly due to the abolition of posts of sub-registrars and karkuns.

The photo-copying system has been in force from 1921. Owing to the smallness of size of photos of type-written documents in Bombay and Bandra offices the size there has been increased by 50 per cent.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

The number of companies registered during the year was 62 as compared with 72 in the previous year. Of these 54 were limited by shares—22 public and 32 private companies—and 8 limited by guarantee possessing no share capital. The decrease in the number of new flotations in the opinion of the Registrar denotes that the public confidence in Joint Stock Companies has not yet been restored though there are indications that the public are now beginning to turn their attention to industrial investment. The public companies had a nominal capital of Rs. 273 lakhs as against 32 with a nominal capital of Rs. 192½ lakhs, while the private companies had a nominal capital of Rs. 641 lakhs as against 34 with a nominal capital of Rs. 681 lakhs. It is worth observing that though there was a decrease in the registration of new public companies by ten, their nominal capital was increased by Rs. 80½ lakhs.

The total number of companies working at the close of the year was 804 as against 827 during the previous year. One hundred and seventy-four old companies increased their authorised, subscribed and paid up capital during the year, while 58 old companies reduced their capital. The aggregate authorised, subscribed and paid up capital of all companies at the close of the year was Rs. 214 crores, Rs. 131 crores and Rs. 102 crores respectively. The general decrease in the capital was partly due to the reduction of capital by old companies and

partly to cessation of work by companies either because that they went into liquidation or were struck off the Register under section 247 of the Act.

The number of societies registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 was 20 as against 32 in the preceding year.

During the year 19 companies incorporated outside British India established places of business in this Presidency as against 24 in the previous year.

The number of documents of various classes registered during the year was 3,081 as against 2,897 in the preceding year. In this connection "it was noticed," says the Registrar of Companies, Bombay, "that a majority of liquidators were still found ignorant of the duties imposed on them by law and often referred to me for instructions."

Two companies and their managers in Karachi were prosecuted and convicted for infringing the provisions of the Act.

The revenue from fees amounted to Rs. 33,000 and the expenditure to Rs. 36,000.

CHAPTER IV

POLICE AND CRIME

THE Police force consists of two distinct bodies, the stipendiary and the village police. The stipendiary force is divided into grades, the members of which beginning as Constables on a monthly pay of Rs. 19 in Southern Division, Rs. 20 in Northern and Central Divisions and Rs. 21 in Sind have the opportunity of becoming Head Constables, Sub-inspectors, Inspectors and even Deputy Superintendents. In the mofussil—

the Sub-Inspector has charge of the Police Station,
the Inspector has charge of a Circle comprising several Police Stations or a large Town, and
an Assistant Superintendent of Police or a Deputy Superintendent has charge of a Sub-Division of a District.

The pay of a Sub-Inspector ranges from Rs. 75 to Rs. 160 and that of an Inspector from Rs. 180 to Rs. 300 per mensem. The whole staff of the Police Prosecuting Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors is now designated as "Police Prosecutors" and their pay ranges from Rs. 90 to Rs. 400 per mensem. The pay of a Deputy Superintendent of Police ranges from Rs. 200 to Rs. 800 per mensem.

It is not the purpose of Government to give the stipendiary police a regular military character, and a portion only are armed, and to them are allotted the duties of guarding jails and lock-ups and the escort of prisoners and treasure. The knowledge of drill required from them is not very elaborate. The more purely police functions are discharged equally by members of the armed and of the unarmed branches of the force.

The proportion of police to area and population of the different portions of the Presidency varies greatly, being determined by a consideration of the nature of the country, the density and character of the population, and the neighbourhood of Indian States.

In the Northern Range there is one policeman to every 4·05 square miles and to 737 inhabitants.

In the Southern Range 1 to 5·36 square miles and to 939 inhabitants.

In Sind 1 to 9·58 square miles and to 634 inhabitants. Of the total police force, excluding officers 1,088 were mounted.

For the purpose of control in the Presidency proper the whole force is under the Inspector-General of Police, who is assisted by three Deputy Inspectors-General of Police. Certain administrative powers have, however, been reserved to the Commissioners of Divisions.

The executive management of the police in each district is vested, under the general direction of the Magistrate of the District, in a Superintendent of Police, who is assisted by a Deputy Superintendent, and has in some cases one or more Assistant Superintendents under him.

Railway Police.—A special police organization exists in connection with the railways of this Presidency—the North-Western which traverses Sind, the B. B. & C. I., the G. I. P. and the M. & S. M. Railways. The police employed along these lines of rail are under the supervision of three Superintendents. The Railway Police form a distinct body quite independent of the Police of the districts in which they serve, but their pay and prospects are identical with those of the District Police. Since the year 1919 the cost of the " Crime and Order Police " is wholly debited to the Provincial Revenues and that of the "Watch and Ward Staff " is borne by Railway Administrations.

Criminal Investigation Department.—In addition to the police attached to individual districts there exists a special organization for the detection of crime called the Criminal Investigation Department, which includes the Finger Print Bureau and is under the immediate control of a Deputy Inspector-General of Police. The Criminal Investigation Department, in co-operation with the Police of other provinces, is employed in the prevention of the spread of serious crime, in the investigation into crime having ramifications over several jurisdictions and in the pursuit of criminals. The Finger Print Bureau has been working satisfactorily since its establishment in 1901.

MOFUSSIL AND SIND POLICE

An outstanding feature of the year was the fact that communal tension was acute in many places, particularly between Hindus and Mahomedans over the perennial question of the playing of music before mosques. This led to riots in certain places, the most serious being that which occurred at Sholapur on the 28th October last in connection with the 'Rath Procession.' There were also riots at Talikot and Bagalkot in the Bijapur District, and serious disturbance at Yemkanmardi in the Belgaum District. In Ahmedabad there was a good deal of feeling over the alleged kidnapping and murder by Khojas of a Koli boy

at Patri. Ratnagiri witnessed a riot of a different nature, where some infuriated Hindus attacked a number of missionaries under a mistaken impression. Later, there was a fatal outbreak at Burondi in the same District over the question of Hindus playing music before mosques. The political situation was, however, quiet throughout the year and there was no unrest on that account.

A notable feature of the year was a welcome fall of 420 cases in serious crime as compared with the figures for the previous year, the total number of cases reported under this head being 23,713 as against 24,133 in 1924 and 24,688 in 1923. The fall of 555 cases in 1924 was mainly contributed by Sind, *viz.*, 539 cases. In the year under report the reverse was the case, as out of the total decrease of 420 cases, the Presidency proper contributed no less than 409 cases. This reduction was the direct result of prolonged operations by the Police which culminated in the rounding up of several gangs of outlaws and dacoits of the most desperate character. The operations cost Government some lakhs, as special parties and additional police had to be entertained in several areas, but the extra expenditure has brought comparative peace to a number of districts. Thus there was a marked decrease in Murders (34) in Sind, while increases occurred in the Northern Range (8) and in the Southern Range (20). Under Dacoities, there was a substantial drop of 40 cases in each of the two Ranges and of 15 cases in Sind. There was a fall under Robberies by 79, under Burglaries by 120, and under Thefts by 273.

The total number of cognisable and non-cognisable offences reported to the Police during the year was 141,991 as against 137,566 in 1924 an increase of 4,425 under all classes. The total cognisable and non-cognisable crime under all classes for the year under report and the preceding four years compares as follows :—

1921	..	..	115,005
1922	..	..	120,197
1923	..	..	130,254
1924	..	..	137,566

The total rise indicated by these figures was caused almost entirely by reported non-cognisable crime. Whereas there were 63,507 non-cognisable crimes reported in 1921, the number in 1925 has risen by 29,095 cases to 92,602. "As these offences are no concern of the police but are dealt with entirely by the magistracy, I am not in a position to offer any useful criticism

of the position," observes the Inspector General of Police. " It would seem, however, to call for careful examination. I would welcome such an examination and the earlier the better, for the incidence of non-cognisable crime has a very definite reaction upon the Police. Firstly, the time of the Magistrates is so taken up that inordinate delay occurs in the disposal of cognisable cases; secondly, the Police are required to serve summonses in non-cognisable cases; and lastly a proportion of these cases are referred to the Police for investigation. I need not point out that a heavy increase in non-cognisable crime acts as a drain upon our greatly reduced grants for travelling allowance and other contingent items, and ties up a number of men in serving summonses who can ill be spared from the decimated strength of their Police Stations."

The cognisable crime reported to the Police under I to VI * Classes for the year under report was 40,153 against 40,089 in the previous year, thus indicating a rise of 64 cases. Analysing the figures under Classes I to V and those under Class VI, the crime reported under the Indian Penal Code shows a fall of 114 cases compared with the figures of the previous year. On the other hand, cases under Class VI show an increase of 178.

Districts showing a marked fall in reported crime under the Indian Penal Code are Karachi Head Quarters (532), Kaira (111), Bijapur (110), Satara (98) and Poona (97). In the Kaira District the fall is reported to be due to the more efficient performance of night rounds, the rounding up of several dangerous and desperate characters, the maintenance and encouragement of private watch and ward arrangements at important villages and to intensive and methodical preventive action in the shape of patrolling. The fall in the Karachi Head Quarters is attributed to the system of flying patrols started in the year 1924. Surveillance over bad characters and deportations also helped considerably in checking crime. On the other hand, Districts showing a marked increase in reported crime under the Indian Penal Code are, Hyderabad (249), Ahmedabad (196), Dharwar (158), Ratnagiri (121) and Ahmednagar (108).

* *Class I.*—Offences against the State, Tranquillity, Safety and Justice such as those relating to Army and Navy, Coin, Stamps, Currency Notes, etc.
Class II.—Connotes serious offences against the person, *i.e.*, murder, culpable homicide, rape, unnatural offence, kidnapping, hurt, grievous hurt, etc.
Class III.—Serious offences against person and property or against property only, *i.e.*, dacoity, robbery, mischief, housebreaking, house-trespass, etc.
Class IV.—Minor offences against the person such as wrongful restraint and confinement, rash act, compulsory labour.
Class V.—Minor offences against property, including theft, criminal breach of trust, cheating, receiving stolen property.
Class VI.—Offences under Special and Local Laws, against religion, etc.

In Hyderabad District the increase is attributed partly to the inexperience of junior Sub-Inspectors and partly to an influx of famine fugitives from Cutch after the failure of the rains. The increase in Ahmedabad is reported to be due to a variety of causes, including the closure of certain Police Stations and Outposts with the resultant decrease in the Police force, the after-effects of the wave of general depression in all industrial centres and the semi-famine conditions prevailing not only in the district but also in the neighbouring tracts of Baroda and Kathiawar. In Dharwar, the rise is reported to be due to an abnormal increase in crime in Hubli town, for which members of the Criminal Tribes Settlement in Hubli are said to be responsible; while in Ratnagiri the increase is said to be due to the partial failure of the monsoon and to the fact that two culprits committed 28 offences within the limits of two Police Stations before they were brought to book. In Ahmednagar, the rise is due to the non-application of the Criminal Tribes Act to the local Bhils and to the return to the district of a number of Mang Garudis and other tribesmen owing to the mill strikes in Bombay.

Turning to the incidence of crime for the year under report in the Presidency including Sind, the incidence of total reported cognisable crime under the Indian Penal Code, per thousand of the population, was the same as in 1924, namely 1·77. The ratio of incidence between the Presidency and Sind was practically unchanged that is, 1·39 for the former and 3·62 for the latter in 1925, as against 1·40 and 3·61 in 1924. In the Presidency proper the Bombay Suburban District was again the most criminal (4·63) and Ratnagiri the least criminal (·42). In Sind the corresponding Districts were again Karachi Head Quarters (6·87) and Thar and Parkar (2·02). The Deputy Inspector General of Police, Northern Range, commenting on the high percentage of crime in the Bombay Suburban District says—

"The high incidence of reported crime per mille of the population obtaining in the Bombay Suburban District as compared with that for the other individual districts in the Range was ascribed by the district officers in the previous year's report to the bad characters coming by local trains from Bombay City on criminal expeditions. Steps were taken during the year under report to organise effective supervision over such itinerants by detailing for duty railway and district police during the dark half of the month on Khar, Santa-Cruz, Parla, Bandra and Andheri Railway Stations. This system led to a great

decrease of crime in Bombay Suburban District as evinced by a comparison of the figures of incidence of crimes per mille, *viz.*, 4·63 in 1925 as against 5·05 in 1924."

The problem of policing the Bombay Suburban District is fraught with many difficulties which do not obtrude themselves in the average District. The District is within easy reach of the criminal fraternity of Bombay City and, as it develops, it will become more and more worth their attention. The Police, meanwhile, are on a rural basis and the odds are therefore greatly in favour of the criminal. Matters will not be on a satisfactory footing until the development of the area has reached the stage at which its Police can be handed over to the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, to be administered as an integral part of the City Police Force.

A statement showing the incidence per thousand of population of cognisable crime reported under the Indian Penal Code and of the Principal Classes of serious crime for 1925 district by district is attached at the end of the Police report. Similar statistics for 1925 in respect of other Presidencies and Provinces of India are not available. Taking the figures for 1924, there was a general fall in five out of ten Provinces in India. Burma, as usual, continued to be the most criminal and Madras the least. Bombay went up one step in rank from the 6th to 5th place in the list.

The number of cases excluded as false or due to mistakes of law or fact was 8,650 as against 8,190 in the preceding year. The percentage of cases excluded to cases for disposal stood at 18·59 against 17·45 in 1924.

The total number of undetected cases during the year was the lowest during the last triennium, *i.e.*, 10,786 as against 11,314 in 1924 and 11,796 in 1923. The decrease was distributed all over the Presidency including Sind, Southern Range (467 cases) followed by Northern Range (42 cases) and Sind (19 cases).

Commenting on the undetected cases, the Inspector General of Police observes :—

" The pressing need for the expansion of the Presidency Criminal Investigation Department has been emphasised year after year in the past and I am glad to be able to say that two appointments of Deputy Superintendents were added to the Criminal Investigation Department during the year—one for ' Crime ' Branch and the other for the Branch dealing with all questions concerning the working of the ' Criminal Tribes Act.'

Proposals are, moreover, about to go in to Government involving the remodelling of the Criminal Investigation Department and the formation of a Criminal Intelligence Branch whose function it should be to co-ordinate the efforts of the District Police in their war against the professional criminal and the habitual."

Of the 18,265 cases decided by trial, 16,608 ended in conviction. The percentage of cases convicted to those tried was 90·92 as against 86·23 in the previous year under all classes and 86·50 under the Indian Penal Code. The highest number of successful cases was under "Thefts" including "Cattle-thefts" (91·44 per cent.) and the lowest under "Dacoities" (64·61 per cent.).

The total number of persons dealt with by the Police in Police cases was 45,852 as compared with 44,882 in 1924 and 42,248 in 1923. Of the 45,852 persons 35,718 were tried during the year and 22,782 were convicted, giving a percentage of 63·78 on the total tried against 62·17 in 1924 and 62·62 in 1923. Out of 22,782 persons convicted, 3,960 were identified as having been previously convicted and 1,169 were classed as "Habitual Offenders."

The value of property stolen during the year under report in connection with cognisable crime was Rs. 19,24,000 as against Rs. 20,74,000 in the preceding year. The value of property recovered was Rs. 6,47,700 compared with Rs. 6,13,000 in 1924. The percentage of property recovered to property stolen was 39·11 in 1925 against 35·67 in the year before, an appreciable improvement.

On the whole, the health of the Police Force was slightly better than it was in 1924. It will continue to improve as funds are made available for the housing in sanitary lines of those members of the Constabulary who now have to live in insanitary hired quarters.

The sanctioned strength of the Police in the Presidency, including Sind, and the Railways but exclusive of the Dangs, stood at 1,083 officers and 22,141 men against 1,073 officers and 22,001 men in 1924.

The total cost of the Police for the year 1925-26, including Sind and inclusive of the clerical staff, amounted to Rs. 133·68 lakhs as against Rs. 134·20 lakhs in 1924. The average cost per Policeman decreased from Rs. 558-15-6 to Rs. 552-7-0 during the year under report. Similar information for the other

Provinces for the year 1925-26 is not available but the averages for 1924-25 are given below :—

		Rs.	a.	p.
1.	Burma	645	15	0
2.	Bengal	589	9	3
3.	Bombay	558	15	6
4.	Bihar and Orissa	546	4	3
5.	Madras	545	3	3
6.	North-West Frontier Province ..	518	2	6
7.	Punjab	488	8	7
8.	Assam	482	0	7
9.	United Provinces	434	9	3

The average cost per head of the Police in the Counties and Boroughs of Scotland during 1924 and in England and Wales in 1925 was £318-13-0 or Rs. 4,248-10-8 and £288-16-6 or Rs. 3,851 at the exchange rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* a rupee respectively against Rs. 645-15-0 in Burma, the most expensive, and Rs. 434-9-3 in the United Provinces, the least expensive Province in India.

The proportion of Police to area, population and cognisable crime investigated was 1 Policeman to 5·71 square miles, 2·44 Railway miles, 780 persons and 1·63 cognisable crime investigated as against 1 to 5·74 square miles, 2·46 Railway miles, 785 persons and 1·67 cognisable crime investigated in the preceding year. The proportion of Police to area in Scotland for the year 1924 and in England and Wales for the year under report was 1 Policeman to 4·46 square miles and to population 1 Policeman to 754 persons and 1 Policeman to 1·02 square miles and to population 1 Policeman to 664 persons, respectively.

The total number of officers and men punished departmentally and judicially was 2,317 against 2,145 in 1924. It is gratifying to note that the total number of officers and men judicially punished dropped from 80 in 1923 and 78 in 1924 to 70 in the year under report. The conduct of the force was, on the whole, excellent.

While the total figure of cognisable crime for 1925 was 100,629, an increase of 977 as compared with 1924 and an increase of 9,987 as compared with 1923, an analysis of the figures shows that the results were, in fact, satisfactory, because the total was made up of 9,603 Indian Penal Code cases and 91,026 Local Act cases. The Indian Penal Code cases are offences against society which it is the primary duty of the police to prevent.

or if they are committed, to detect. The Local Act cases are mainly breaches of rules or bye-laws. If the figures for Indian Penal Code cases are unduly high and remain high or show a tendency to increase, the criminals are clearly more than a match for the police; if the figures are low or if there is a progressive improvement, the police may reasonably claim that they have crime under control or are in process of getting it under control. An increase in Local Act cases does not mean an increase in crime; it merely means that the police are more active. In fact, the best indication of the efficiency of the police is a substantial decrease in Indian Penal Code cases and a substantial increase in Local Act cases. In 1925 the number of Local Act cases was the highest ever recorded so far as the police records show, while the number of Indian Penal Code cases was the lowest recorded since the year 1917. Every police station in the City showed a fall in these cases except Dadar and Kingsway, both of which are in areas which are rapidly being developed and in which the population has increased and in each case the increase was slight. There was a substantial decrease in every class of preventible offence, rioting, dacoity, robbery, house-breaking and theft. Under the heading 'Serious offences against the person' there were increases in rape, grievous hurt, hurt and kidnapping; but there were decreases under culpable homicide, criminal force to public servant, etc. In serious offences against the person and property or against property only there was an all round decrease in robbery, lurking, house-trespass, etc.; while there were no cases under the head of dacoity as compared with 15 in the previous year. There were substantial decreases also in thefts, criminal breach of trust, receiving stolen property and cheating. The total number of cases of all classes remaining undetected was 4,207 or 4·14 per cent. as against 5 per cent. in 1924 and 5·77 per cent. in 1923. There were 101 suicides of which 27 were women. The total value of property alleged to have been stolen amounted to Rs. 17,91,000 as compared with Rs. 19,47,000 in 1924 and Rs. 22,85,000 in 1923. The total value of property recovered was Rs. 4,87,000, a recovery percentage of 27·23. The figure of stolen property was the lowest since 1918, and the percentage of recovery the highest since 1919.

The total number of motor vehicles running in Bombay City during the year was approximately 13,900, including 900 motor lorries. There were 787 taxis licensed to ply for hire, an increase of 164 over the figure for 1924. The number of motor accidents increased by 191 to 1,832. Of this number 56 were

fatal accidents or 3 more than last year. In 22 of these cases the police were of opinion that the drivers were at fault and prosecutions were launched in each case. Only 10 drivers were found guilty and they were convicted.

Discussing the discipline in the Force, the Commissioner regrets to report a large increase in the number of punishments inflicted during the year. He says : " If in consequence the lesson is well learnt that slackness, indifference and dishonesty do not pay in the long run, we may confidently look forward for an improvement in the following years. It is a common complaint in the police that the public give little or no assistance to the police. The complaint is true. But the fault is not all on the side of the public. Co-operation in full measure cannot be hoped for till the police win public confidence. It is unfortunately true that they have not won it yet. The public at present do not trust in the honesty of the police and they resent the incivility and the discourtesy with which not infrequently the police discharge their official duties. In the interest of the good name of the police it is necessary to punish severely every offence that besmirches the reputation of the Force. In regard to honesty, I must say that in the matter of the registration and investigation of crime, I consider the standard of honesty is very high, and I am not afraid of comparison with any Police Force on that point, but there are side lines in which there is much room for improvement."

For the first time for some years there was no Pathan scare in 1925 and in the opinion of the Commissioner there are greater menaces in Bombay than the Pathan menace and one of them is the presence of habitual criminals whose main occupation is the commission of crime. Many of the worst criminals do not belong to any known criminal tribe and therefore cannot be dealt with under the Criminal Tribes Act. Most of them have no habitation and no work except casual labour ; the only trade they are proficient in is burglary or theft. Many of these habituals have 10 to 20 previous convictions and, in the opinion of the Commissioner, just as the law provides for putting members of criminal tribes away in Settlements, so should it provide for the removal of habituals of the above sort who are in many cases worse than the worst member of any criminal tribe. Jail has neither a deterrent nor a reformative effect on them and proposals have been made by the Commissioner to Government that legislation should be undertaken on the lines of the English Preventive Detention Act as one means of coping with this problem.

VILLAGE POLICE

Under the provisions of Bombay Act VIII of 1867 the village police are, subject to the control and direction of the Commissioner, administered by the different District Magistrates. It is their special duty to prevent crime and public nuisances and to detect and arrest offenders within village limits. They are not stipendiary, but receive perquisites from the inhabitants of the village or rent-free lands or small sums of money from Government. In each village the village police are under the charge of the police patil, who is often, but by no means always, the person performing the duties of revenue patil. His duties as police patil are to furnish the Magistrate of the district with any returns or information called for, and to keep him constantly informed as to the state of crime and all matters connected with the village police and the health and general condition of the community in his village. Under a form of administration which preserves the village as the unit of collection in revenue matters the institution of village police naturally holds an important place.

There are no village police in Sind, but in their place village or taluka trackers (paggis) are employed.

The number of cases in which the village police rendered special assistance considerably decreased during the year. It stood at 544 in 1923 and at 374 in 1924, as against 314 in the year under report, while the number of village policemen reported for failure of duty simultaneously increased from 471 in 1924 to 503 in the year under report. "These statistics are disappointing," says the Inspector General of Police, "especially in a year of comparatively peaceful conditions." The Government Resolution commenting on the year's work says :—

"Government consider it of great importance that there should be close co-operation between the district and village police, especially as Police Patels have now been appointed village headmen under the Criminal Tribes Act, and hope to see improvement in this respect in future."

In all 406 village policemen were rewarded, 73 by the grant of good service tickets, 44 by the grant of awards and the remainder by money rewards amounting in all to Rs. 2,460.

ADEN POLICE

The total number of officers and men of the Police was 320, of whom 12 were mounted. Only 90 were literate. The expenditure on the force was Rs. 1,91,000, of which Rs. 1,33,000 was borne by Government and the remainder by the Aden

settlement and the Port Trust. Out of 494 persons concerned in 608 offences and sent up for trial 378 were convicted, 115 discharged and one ordered to be detained in Jail under Section 471, Criminal Procedure Code, 1898. The percentage of convictions was 73·68 as compared with 69·95 in the preceding year. The value of property stolen during the year amounted to Rs. 33,395, of which property worth Rs. 10,881 was recovered. Two hundred and twenty-three persons were deported to Somaliland and 448 to the interior of Arabia at the expense of the Settlement while 74 persons were deported to Mokalla, Hodeidah, Port Sudan, Muscat, Khokha, Mogadiscio, Zanzibar and England at Government's expense.

GOVERNMENT MALE AND FEMALE WORKHOUSES

By the European Vagrancy Act of 1874 a person of European extraction (which does not include " those commonly known as Eurasians or East Indians ") found asking for alms or wandering about without any employment or visible means of subsistence is a " vagrant " and may be required by a police officer to appear before a Magistrate. If the latter thinks that the vagrant is not likely to obtain employment he sends him to a Government Workhouse known as Working Men's Hostel, where he is kept. If the Magistrate is of opinion that the vagrant is likely to get employment in any other place in India he may at his discretion forward the vagrant to such a place.

If after a lapse of a reasonable time in a workhouse no suitable employment is obtainable for the vagrant, the local Government may cause him to be removed from British India at Government expense or may release him.

Penalties are provided by the Act for refusal to go before a Magistrate, for quitting the workhouse without leave, etc., two years' imprisonment being the maximum penalty for the latter offence.

The Government Male Workhouse is now administered by the Salvation Army, which receives a grant from Government. Destitute Europeans may go voluntarily to the King Edward's Home which is managed by the Salvation Army and also receives a grant from Government.

The total number of inmates at the end of the year 1925 was 64 out of which 47 were newly admitted during the year under report. The total cost was Rs. 8,758 as against Rs. 8,702 in the previous year.

Eleven vagrants deserted the Workhouse during the year. The maximum period of confinement of an inmate who left the Hostel was 258 days.

In the Female Workhouse no vagrant remained at the close of the year 1924. During the year 1925 there was only one admission, and she remained in the Workhouse till January 1926 and was then sent to the Salvation Army at Matunga. The total cost of maintenance amounted to Rs. 224.

Bombay Jails

A reduction in expenditure and an increase in the profits from jail labour were two of the special features of the annual report of the Bombay Jail Department for 1925. The average population of the jails was 12,324 as against 12,466 in the previous year. The number of convicted prisoners admitted during the year was 15,781 as compared with 15,275, a slight increase of 506; but the number of under-trial prisoners show a considerable increase: the total number admitted during the year was 78,143 as against 71,548—an increase of 6,595. The reasons for the growth in the number of arrests are being investigated.

Two hundred and seventy-seven prisoners were released under the orders of Government; of these 118 were on the recommendation of Advisory Boards. Five thousand one hundred and ninety-three prisoners were released under the remission system.

There was an increase of 25 in the number of juvenile criminals, the total admitted being 70. Juvenile crime appears to be increasing as in addition to the larger number of children sent to prison, 392 persons under sixteen years of age were released by Magistrates on probation of good conduct, as compared with 285 last year. Measures for the better treatment of juvenile offenders are under consideration.

Further progress was made during the year for a scheme to convert the Juvenile Jail at Dharwar into a Borstal Institution. The scheme provides for cellular accommodation for 400 boys together with the necessary workshops and school rooms at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,17,098. One hundred and fifty-four prisoners, from years 16 to 20, were admitted into the Dharwar Juvenile Jail as compared with 204 during the previous year. The total admission to all jails of boys between those ages was, however, 1,690 as against 1,660 in 1924, but fewer of these were eligible for transfer to Dharwar under the existing rules. "As pointed out in the last year's report, the juvenile jail at present does not receive the class of prisoners which is especially in need of the necessary reformatory influences which such an institution is designed to exert, namely, adolescents of criminal tendencies and associations," says the Inspector-General of Prisons. "A simple Borstal Act empowering judicial officers

to order detention in a Borstal Institution for a period of at least a year or preferably two years in lieu of imprisonment is all that is required. The principle has already been accepted in the case of children, *vide* section 8 of the Reformatory Schools Act, so such a measure ought not to meet with any opposition."

Jail discipline during the year appears to have been quite satisfactory. The imposition of fetters for punishment or security continues to diminish. Nine convicted prisoners escaped from the larger prisons—all from extra-mural gangs—as compared with 12 in 1924, and of these seven were recaptured. The number of jail offences dealt with by Criminal Courts rose from 48 to 76, but those dealt with by Superintendents fell from 22,690 to 19,312. The majority of these related to work. There were 2,692 offences connected with prohibited articles as compared with 2,874 in the preceding year. The free issue of tobacco not having resulted in any marked decrease in the number of offences connected with these articles, the concession was withdrawn after a year's trial. The number of floggings diminished from 98 in 1923 and 40 in 1924 to only 17 in the year under report.

The sick rate recorded a further decline from the low figures recorded in 1924 but the death rates somewhat increased owing to an epidemic of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis at Hyderabad Central Prison. The average daily sick rate was 204·3 as compared with 264·2 last year. The total number of deaths was 137 as against 128. Bombay ranks fourth amongst Indian provinces in point of jail death rates.

Overcrowding continues to be a feature of the jails. When all the building schemes which have been approved by Government are completed, there will normally be just about sufficient accommodation in the Presidency proper and Sind without excessive overcrowding. Good progress was made with the construction of the new Nasik Central Jail for habitual prisoners. The erection of a separate Central Female Jail at Yeravda was commenced and will be ready for occupation about January 1927. The Arthur Road Criminal and Civil Prison was practically completed by the end of the year and was opened on 1st February. The reconstruction of His Majesty's House of Correction has been sanctioned, the object being to convert it into a jail which will be mostly cellular and therefore suitable for receiving and separating under-trial prisoners and prisoners sentenced to very short terms of confinement. "The overcrowding of Sind Jails gives cause for much anxiety," says

the Inspector-General of Prisons, "as the prison population there is invariably nearly 50 per cent. above the sanctioned accommodation." Government have approved the conversion of Shikarpur Sub-jail into a Special Prison for 350 short term prisoners. Plans have also been administratively approved for the extension of the Hyderabad Central Prison and Karachi District Prison.

JAIL INDUSTRIES

The jail industries showed a net profit of nearly Rs. 2,51,000 as compared with Rs. 2,43,000 in the previous year. The organisation of jail industries has received the attention of Government and the Inspector-General of Prisons has suggested the appointment of a Committee for this purpose. "Jail labour ought to be used a very great deal more than it is in manufacturing goods for the use of Government," observes the Inspector-General of Prisons. "There are many simple articles such as towels, dusters, dhurries, dungri, office chairs and tables, etc., which are very largely used and which can be made quite satisfactorily in jails. The only cash outlay is for the raw materials required and it is obvious that it must be more economical to have these made by prisoners whom Government is bound to maintain rather than to buy them in the bazar at a price which includes the cost of labour of manufacture as well as manufacturer's and middleman's profits."

The total cost of guarding and maintaining prisoners was Rs. 18,82,000 and the average cost per head was Rs. 153-6-1 as compared with Rs. 19,72,000 and Rs. 158-9-2 in the previous year. The decrease was partly due to a somewhat smaller population and partly to economies effected by the Inspector-General of Prisons.

After deducting profits earned by jail factories the net cost amounted to Rs. 16,32,000 (Rs. 133 per head) as against Rs. 17,30,000 (Rs. 139 per head) in 1924.

Criminal Tribes

"Settlement work has now reached a stage at which it is advisable to pause and take stock of the position," said the Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer in his annual report on the working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1925-26. "In the early days the settlement population was obtained by taking complete gangs of wandering criminal tribes and selected individuals from the settled castes. Many of these people have now by their good conduct earned

their right to freedom, and are fit for discharge. But that is not what they wish for. The figures of those discharged on probation during the year are important. It will be seen that during the year 43 heads of families and their dependent (106) persons though offered their discharge on probation preferred to remain in the settlements. Their point of view is that they have secured regular work in the town and they also appreciate the amenities of the settlement and the help of the settlement staff. This is satisfactory as showing that settlement life is not unduly irksome, but some solution must be sought or they and their offspring will remain as an indefinite burden on the State. This indicates a serious position and I am now endeavouring to solve the difficulty by organising free colonies adjacent to the settlement. Such free colonies have already come into existence by the side of Umedpur Settlement and there are now 255 persons from the settlement on them. In this particular instance the colonies are financed by the Mills who employ these people. This forms a very satisfactory solution of the problem as far as this settlement is concerned. In Bijapur a detached part of the settlement on which the Chapparbands of good conduct who originally belonged to the settlement had built their houses has now been excluded from the area of the settlement, so that it becomes an ordinary part of the town. This accounts for the drop in population of this settlement. One immediate result is to increase the cost per head for the remaining settlers, but steps are being taken to adjust the staff and other expenses to the new conditions. For other persons fit for discharge on probation I am investigating the organisation of agricultural colonies in places where there are blocks of Government waste land available. The Director of Agriculture has kindly lent one of his experienced men on deputation to assist me in this investigation and in the organisation of the training in agriculture which will be necessary before such persons can be entrusted to work their fields independently.

The conditions of admission into settlements have also been tightened up as a measure of economy. At present persons with their dependents are admitted only if they have at least five convictions or two convictions if the sentences total seven years' imprisonment."

The total population in the settlement was 12,477 as against 12,605 in the previous year, showing a slight decrease of 128. During the year 201 fresh registered members of criminal tribes were sent by Government under Section 16 of the Criminal Tribes Act to settlements. These represent persons of multiple

convictions taken from Bombay City or the districts or jails. Some of them have an amazing number of convictions recorded against them. One case recently admitted, a Manggarudi, has had ten convictions. He has two wives, one of whom has eleven convictions and the other ten.

The organisation of work amongst the Criminal Tribes in Bombay City proceeded steadily during the year. The police have practically completed their survey and have selected those persons of the worst criminal records for internment in settlements. Work amongst the Criminal Tribes left in Bombay City has been continued and 573 Manggarudis who were living unauthorisedly in various open sites have been brought together in a colony at Dharavi, and a day school, a night school and a dispensary have been opened for them. A mission committee under the Reverend Mr. Edwards is looking after the Manggarudis and Bhamptas, and the Kaikadis are being cared for by the Social Service League. Both these organisations are reported to be doing excellent reformative work.

EMPLOYMENT

"The problem of securing employment for the settlement people during the year was not very difficult," says the Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer. Employment in mills continued to be the chief source of employment for the settlers as in previous years, as illustrated by the following statement :—

Settlement	Men	Women	Half-timers
1. Sholapur	836	400	192
2. Hubli	402	110	38
3. Gokak Falls	108	124	6
4. Ambernath	55	30	15

Internal industries such as agriculture, weaving and building work also form a source of employment.

The health of the settlers during the year was eminently satisfactory. The birth-rate per thousand of population was 42·0, and the mortality 18·2 per thousand, which is far less than the average for the whole Presidency. The figures are an eloquent tribute to the effective and unobtrusive work amongst the women and children performed by the medical staff and by the Lady Superintendents and their helpers.

Elementary education is free and compulsory both for boys and girls up to the age of 13 in all settlements. The total number of children in day schools was 2,449.

Considerable attention is paid to manual training. Over 76 apprentices are engaged in Masonry, 100 in Carpentry, 7 in Tailoring, 24 in Agriculture, 29 in Weaving, 1 in Printing and 1 in Roofing Tile Factory. In Sholapur, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Gadag, Hubli and Gokak Falls settlements there are carpentry workshops attached to the settlements. The furniture prepared by these workshops, notably that at Hubli, has made a name for itself. The report shows a slight drop from 558 to 491 in the number of lads in the night schools. This is due to a more careful enforcement of the rule that no one over 18 years of age should be compelled or urged to come to the night school.

There are 21 troops of Boy Scouts having 445 scouts and 9 companies of Girl Guides having 284 guides and Blue Birds.

The seventh Annual Settlement Exhibition was held at Hubli in January. The standard of workmanship was quite maintained. The industrial shield was again won by Bijapur Industrial Settlement, and the shield now becomes the property of this settlement. The medal for the best piece of work in the exhibition was won by a Bijapur Ghantichor lad for an excellent model in stone of the Golgumbaz. The Exhibition attracted much attention. A number of exhibitors from settlements were also successful in the Bombay Art Society Exhibition held in Poona in August 1925.

The total number of absconders remaining untraced on March 31st was 162. Of these 58 were men and 17 were women.

As regards special establishments, it is noted that there are now 87 children in the Children's Homes at Hubli, Bijapur and Baramati. Though there are 2,515 children of school-going age in the settlements, it is noteworthy that in very few extreme cases are children placed in the Homes. Such children are either beyond the control of their parents or are orphans with no suitable relatives to care for them or are children of irreclaimable criminals. The Women's Home at Hubli, which is a Rescue Home for women from all the settlements, continued to be a very valuable aid to settlement work. During the year there were 43 women admitted and 41 discharged.

The Hurs are still in the Nira Projects Settlement. Having regard to their reputation for being exceedingly desperate and dangerous, they have given surprisingly little trouble.

The total expenditure incurred for the financial year 1925-26 was Rs. 2,79,000, an average expenditure per settler of Rs. 22-1-0 per annum.

CHAPTER V

AGRICULTURE, WEATHER AND CROPS

THE agricultural season of 1925-26 was, on the whole, moderate and below average. It was definitely poor over a large part of Gujarat and East Khandesh and in many places in the East Deccan and Karnatak comprising chiefly the eastern portions of Poona, Satara, Ahmednagar and Dharwar, almost the whole of the Bijapur District (except Indi taluka) and the east of Belgaum, especially the Athni taluka. On the other hand, the season was fairly satisfactory in West Khandesh and Sholapur in the Deccan and also in the central portions of both Deccan and Karnatak, while in the west of these two divisions and in most of the Konkan it was generally fully average. In Sind, the season was much below the normal owing to the late rise and early fall of the river there.

The *kharif* rains were below the normal almost throughout the Presidency and Sind. In Gujarat, they were about the average at Kaira, but at the other stations of the Division they did not generally exceed two-thirds the usual amount. The peculiarity, however, was that while the June and early July rains were very good, the precipitation then suddenly stopped and the later *kharif* rain both in Gujarat and the Deccan was very deficient. In the Deccan, in total amount they somewhat exceeded the normal at Ahmednagar and approached it at Sholapur, but at the other stations in the Division they ranged from a little over one-half to three-fourths the usual quantity. In the Karnatak, they slightly exceeded the standard at Dharwar and in the Hilly Tracts and were a little below it at Belgaum, but at Bijapur they were very deficient amounting to only a little over one-half the usual amount. In the Konkan these *kharif* rains slightly exceeded the normal at Karwar (Kanara), but at the other stations they amounted to about two-thirds the usual quantity. In Sind, the distribution of the *kharif* rains was very uneven.

Except in Khandesh and the East Deccan and Karnatak, where they considerably exceeded the average, the *rabi* rains were generally far below the usual quantity both in the Presidency and Sind.

Area under cultivation.—In the Presidency proper the gross cropped area dropped by 311,000 acres. The districts which were mainly responsible for the decline were the Panch Mahals (—110,000 acres), Surat (—52,000 acres), Broach

(—31,000 acres), Ratnagiri (—96,000 acres), Nasik (—33,000 acres), Ahmednagar (—25,000 acres), Sholapur (—16,000 acres) and Poona (—10,000 acres), due to deficiency of rains at the time of sowing both the *kharif* and *rabi* crops in many parts of the Presidency. Against this there was an expansion of area in Bijapur (+35,000 acres), Satara (+20,000 acres) and East Khandesh and Belgaum (+10,000 acres each) due to the suitability of the sowing rains in parts of these districts.

The area cropped more than once showed a decrease of 159,000 acres, mostly in Gujarat and West Khandesh, where owing to the short duration of the rainy season no time was found to raise two or more crops. The decline was specially noticeable in the Panch Mahals (—97,000 acres), Surat (—44,000 acres) and West Khandesh (—11,000 acres).

Net cropped area showed a setback of 152,000 acres in the Presidency proper. The decrease was general but was particularly marked in Gujarat (—161,000 acres) where owing to the uncertain nature of the rains of the season sowings were curtailed almost everywhere.

In Sind, the gross cropped area, the area cropped more than once and the net cropped area, all fell by 605, 125 and 480 thousand acres, respectively, owing to the late and poor inundation of the year.

In the Presidency proper the assessed area increased by 53,000 acres while there was a very slight fall (of 8,000 acres) in the unassessed area. In Sind the assessed area increased by 194,000 acres and the unassessed area decreased by 298,000 acres.

(Area in thousands of acres)

Details	Presidency (Proper)			Sind		
	1924-25	1925-26	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent.	1924-25	1925-26	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent.
A.—Cultivated area						
Gross cropped area	28,138	27,826	— 1·1	4,864	4,260	—12·4
Area cropped more than once ..	646	487	—24·6	439	314	—28·5
Net area cropped	27,492	27,339	— 0·7	4,425	3,946	—10·8
Current fallows	5,962	6,160	+ 3·4	5,072	5,446	+ 7·4
Assessed ..	33,304	33,357	+ 0·2	8,695	8,889	+ 2·2
Unassessed ..	150	142	— 5·3	802	504	—37·2
Total Cultivated area ..	33,454	33,499	+ 0·1	9,497	9,392	— 1·1

BOMBAY, 1925-26

(Area in thousands of acres)

Details	Presidency (Proper)			Sind		
	1924-25	1925-26	Increase (+) or decrease (−) per cent.	1924-25	1925-26	Increase (+) or decrease (−) per cent.
B.—Uncultivated area						
Available for cultivation (Culturable waste)	913	900	− 1·4	5,967	6,060	+ 1·6
Not available for cultivation. { Forest ..	8,535	8,511	− 0·3	734	735	+ 0·1
Not available for cultivation. { Others ..	5,798	5,802	+ 0·1	13,960	13,900	− 0·5
Total Uncultivated area ..	15,246	15,213	− 0·2	20,661	20,695	+ 0·2
Total area ..	48,700	48,712	..	30,158	30,087	− 0·2

NATURE OF THE CROPS

Two-thirds of the cultivated area of the Presidency is devoted to growing food-stuffs, bajri, paddy, wheat and gram being the most important crops. Cotton is the largest non-food crop.

In the Presidency proper, the area under *food crops* fell by 631,000 acres or by 3·3 per cent. below the previous year and 1,019,000 acres or 5·2 per cent. below the average. *Jowar* (mostly *rabi*), wheat and gram showed a considerable decline due to want of late rains in many places, but *bajri* and rice showed an advance due to good early rains at sowing time. Sugarcane cultivation also extended as a result of good water supply in irrigation sources at the time of planting.

Among *non-food* crops the expansion of area was marked in the case of oilseeds, mostly under groundnut, due to greater foreign demand. Cotton also showed a slight extension due to the stimulus of high prices fetched by the crop in the market in recent years. The area under tobacco was stationary but there was some decline under the other minor non-food crops.

The net result of the variations in the food and non-food crops was a decrease of 312,000 acres or 1·1 per cent. under the total cropped area of the last year.

In Sind, with the exception of rice which showed a slight increase due to the incentive of high prices, and tobacco which remained stationary, the area under all the crops, both food

and non-food, fell to a considerable extent due to the late and poor inundation of the year.

Cropped Area

(Area in thousands of acres)

Crops	Bombay Presidency (proper)			Sind		
	1924-25	1925-26	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (−)	1924-25	1925-26	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (−)
I.—Food Crops						
(*a*) Cereals and Pulses—						
Jowari	8,635	7,819	− 9·4	562	496	−11·7
Bajri	3,076	3,632	+18·0	1,029	1,019	− 0·9
Rice	1,887	1,906	+ 1·0	1,175	1,203	+ 2·4
Wheat	1,418	1,134	−20·0	541	367	−32·2
Gram	501	413	−17·6	240	173	−27·9
Others	3,077	3,063	− 0·4	352	270	−23·3
Total Cereals and Pulses ..	18,594	17,967	− 3·4	3,899	3,528	− 9·5
(*b*) Sugarcane	59	65	+10·2	4	3	−25·0
(*c*) Other food crops*	434	424	− 2·3	49	49	..
Total Food Crops ..	19,087	18,456	− 3·3	3,952	3,580	9·5
II.—Non-food Crops						
(*a*) Tobacco	116	114	− 1·7	7	7	..
(*b*) Oil seeds	981	1,220	+24·4	387	217	−43·9
(*c*) Cotton	4,917	5,112	+ 3·9	400	362	− 9·5
(*d*) Other non-food crops† ..	3,037	2,924	− 3·7	118	94	−20·3
Total Non-food Crops ..	9,051	9,370	+ 3·5	912	680	−25·4
Total Crops ..	28,138	27,826	− 1·1	4,864	4,260	12·3

* These include fruits, vegetables and miscellaneous food-crops.

† These include condiments and spices, dyes, drugs and narcotics (excluding tobacco which has been separately noted), fodder and miscellaneous non-food crops.

Variations in the principal crops were as follows :—

Jowar and Bajri.—Owing to the failure of the late rains the area under *jowar* (chiefly *rabi*) showed a considerable drop throughout the Presidency proper—of over eight lakhs of acres

or 9·4 per cent. below the previous year, but the decline was partly made up by a net increase of 556,000 acres or 18·0 per cent. in the area under *bajri* the cultivation of which increased almost everywhere in the Deccan (except Khandesh) and the Karnatak, though it fell seriously in North Gujarat owing to the indifferent *kharif* rains there. In Sind, the decline under both *jowar* and *bajri* was general owing to the unsatisfactory inundation.

Rice.—The increase under rice in the Presidency proper was negligible being about 19,000 acres or only one per cent. over the previous year. It was due to the good rains of June and July received in the rice tracts. In Sind, the area under the crop increased by 28,000 acres under the incentive of high prices.

Wheat.—In the Presidency proper, the area under wheat was curtailed by about 284,000 acres mainly in Gujarat and the Deccan due to deficiency of rains at sowing time. Against this there was an increase of 142,000 acres in the Karnatak owing to the splendid rains of the last week of September and the second week of October. In Sind, the area under wheat showed a drop of 174,000 acres owing to the late rise and premature fall of the river there.

Oilseeds.—In the Presidency proper, the total area under oilseeds (1,220,000 acres) rose by 239,000 acres or by 24·4 per cent. over the area of the previous year and by 338,000 acres or 38·3 per cent. over the average. The groundnut crop alone was responsible for most of the increase (+248,000 acres), the variations under the other oilseeds being generally small.

As regards oilseeds in Sind the only oilseeds of importance in the Province are Rape and Mustard (which are by far the most important) and sesame, the area under other oilseeds such as linseed, groundnut, castorseed, cocoanut, etc., being quite negligible in this Province. The area under sesame was stationary but that under Rape and Mustard decreased by 213,000 acres below the previous year due to the very unsatisfactory behaviour of the river. The decrease was shared by all the districts.

Groundnut.—This crop is becoming more and more popular with the cultivators everywhere due to the good prices and the ready sale it obtains in the market, consequently the area under it is advancing recently almost by leaps and bounds. For instance during the season under review the area under the crop was fully double that of the previous year in Gujarat and the North Deccan while even elsewhere there has been a substantial increase in each district without exception. The total area under the crop during the season under report was 592,000 acres

SUGARCANE GROWN BY THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT METHODS AT POONA

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against 344,000 acres in the last year. The increased cultivation of groundnut is one of the most striking agricultural changes in recent years.

Cotton.—In the Presidency proper, on account of the stimulus of high prices fetched by the crop in recent years and also owing to the favourable rains at the time of sowing in many places, the area under cotton showed an advance of 195,000 acres or 3·9 per cent. over last year. The increase occurred chiefly in Ahmedabad, Broach, West Khandesh, Nasik and Ahmednagar. On the other hand, the area under the crop receded in East Khandesh, Sholapur, Belgaum and Bijapur due to the indifferent nature of the sowing rains in many parts of these districts.

In Sind, there was a decline of 38,000 acres or 9·5 per cent. under the previous year and the decline occurred almost exclusively in the two cotton growing districts of Thar Parkar and Nawabshah due to the late and poor inundation in the year.

Sugarcane.—In the Presidency proper, the area under sugarcane showed a slight increase of 7,000 acres mostly in the canal areas of the Deccan due to good water-supply in the canals at the time of planting. In Sind, the area under the crop remained stationary.

Other Crops.—Among other crops, the area under *tobacco* receded by four thousand acres in the Presidency mostly in Gujarat owing to deficient water-supply there. In Sind, the area under tobacco was almost the same as last year.

Irrigated Area

In the Presidency proper the area irrigated remained almost stationary having advanced from 994,000 acres in the previous year to 996,000 acres or by only 0·2 per cent. during the year under report.

In this connection it may be stated that the area under sugarcane over the whole Bombay Presidency is gradually increasing under canals while the proportion of the total area under the other sources, including wells, is rapidly decreasing. Thus in 1915-16 out of the total of 66,000 acres under sugarcane only 20,000 acres or 30 per cent. were irrigated by Government canals while the remaining 46,000 acres or 70 per cent. were irrigated from "other sources." In 1921-22, the area irrigated by Government canals rose to about 40 per cent., the canals irrigating 21,000 acres out of the total acreage of 54,000 acres under the crop, while in 1924-25, the latest year for which figures of irrigation under Government Canals are available, the area

irrigated by Government canals exceeded sixty per cent. the canals irrigating about 36,000 acres out of the total of 59,000 acres under the crop.

The phenomenon is one of the most striking changes in agricultural practice in recent years.

(Area in thousands of acres)

Details	Bombay Presidency (Proper)			Sind		
	1924-25	1925-26	Increase (+) or decrease (−) per cent.	1924-25	1925-26	Increase (+) or decrease ( ) per cent
A.—Area Irrigated						
Irrigated from Government canals.	254	241	− 5·1	3,080	2,840	− 7·8
Do. private canals ..	70	51	−27·1	25	16	−36·0
Do. wells ..	514	524	+ 2·0	43	49	+14·0
Do. tanks ..	124	137	+10·5	..	..	..
Do. other sources ..	32	43	+34·4	138	111	+19·6
Total A.—Area Irrigated ..	994	996	+ 0·2	3,286	3.016	− 8·2
B.—Crops Irrigated						
Rice	176.	197	+11·9	1,175	1,203	+ 2·4
Wheat	156	144	− 7·7	332	227	−31·6
Barley	12	12	..	11	10	− 9·1
Jowari	226	236	+ 4·4	440	408	− 7·3
Bajri	64	44	−31·3	497	473	− 4·8
Maize	27	23	−14·9	3	3	..
Other cereals and pulses ..	118	86	−35·3	533	172	−67·7
Sugarcane	58	64	+10·4	4	3	−25·0
Other food crops	121	125	+ 4·0	60	83	+38·3
Cotton	20	28	+40·0	398	362	− 9·0
Other non-food crops	134	143	+ 6·7	296	181	−38·6
Total B.—Crops Irrigated ..	1,112	1,102	−0·9	3,749	3,125	− 6·8

OUTTURN OF CROPS

Except Ahmedabad, the Panch Mahals and Poona where it was only about one-third the normal and in West Khandesh and Thana where it was nearly normal, the outturn of *kharif jowar* ranged from one-half to three-fourths of the normal in all the districts.

The yield of *bajri* was about four-fifths of the normal in Surat, West Khandesh and Nasik and only two-fifths of the normal in

Sholapur. In all other districts it ranged between one-half and three-fourths of the normal.

Rice returned nearly a normal yield throughout the Konkan except Kanara where the outturn came to about three-fourths of the normal. In Broach, West Khandesh, Nasik, Satara and Dharwar it yielded about four-fifths of the normal while in the remaining districts of the Deccan and Karnatak it yielded from one-half to three-fourths of the normal. Throughout Gujarat (except Broach), however, the crop was definitely poor and returned only between one-fourth and two-fifths of the normal yield.

The yield of **cotton** ranged between one-half and three-fourths of the normal in all the Gujarat districts and between one-half and two-thirds of the normal in all the Deccan districts. In the Karnatak, however, the yield was more varying, for whereas it was three-fourths of the normal in Dharwar and four-fifths of it at Belgaum, it came only to two-fifths of the normal in Bijapur.

While the area under food-grains in the Presidency fell only by 3·4 per cent. the outturn fell by as much as 17·1 per cent. below the previous year—thus depicting the unfavourable character of the season under review over a large part of the Presidency. In Sind, as a result of the late rise and early fall of the river, there was a drop both in the area as well as in the yield of the food crops—of 9·6 per cent. in area and of 24·5 per cent. in outturn—as compared with the previous year.

CONDITION OF THE AGRICULTURAL POPULATION

Generally speaking, the agricultural season of 1925-26 was, so far as the actual produce of the land is concerned, decidedly inferior to its predecessor. Though the outturn of crops was generally up to the standard in most parts of the Konkan and in the West Deccan and Karnatak, excepting in these favoured areas, it was first rate nowhere ; while in most parts of Gujarat and East Khandesh and in many places in the East Deccan and Karnatak it was definitely poor. As a result, remissions and suspensions of Land Revenue were found necessary in part of Gujarat, the Deccan and Karnatak to ameliorate the distress in these areas. Fortunately, as a result of the favourable nature of the previous season (1924-25), ample stocks of food grains and fodder were available and there was, thus, no actual scarcity of food or fodder in any area during the year under report except in parts of North Gujarat and Khandesh where scarcity of fodder was felt later in the season. The scarcity, however, was nowhere so acute in the Presidency as to affect the agricultural

stock seriously. There was also no serious disease among cattle during the year under review (except a rather serious attack of rinderpest in parts of Kanara) and the condition of cattle was, thus, generally good in the Presidency. In Sind, however, the condition of cattle was far from satisfactory on account of the scarcity of fodder.

Prices of Agricultural products remained either constant or showed a downward tendency while in the case of articles like cotton, *gul*, turmeric, etc., they showed a considerable drop. On the other hand, wages continued high and scarcity of labour was felt in many places. The net result was that for the classes labouring for cash wages, conditions, during the year, continued very satisfactory. For, while the wages continued high, the prices showed, if anything, a downward tendency. This meant an increase in the purchasing power of agricultural labourers. In other words, they could better afford to live in a state of reasonable ease and comfort. The self-dependent small farmer with an economic holding, chiefly using his own labour in producing food for himself, has not suffered seriously though the fall in prices coupled with subnormal yields in parts must have caused more difficulty in paying the high labour charges and the Government assessment. But the larger man chiefly cultivating by employed labour has been very hard hit almost everywhere. Thus, for example, the year under report has been a very unsatisfactory one for the growers of sugarcane, cotton and turmeric as compared with those to which the people have been accustomed during the past, as the low prices of the products coupled with low yields and the increased cost of cultivation have given a severe blow to the cultivation of these crops.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ITS APPLICATION

Despite a season which was on the whole unfavourable, there was an increasingly widespread interest in agricultural advance, the improvements which the Department is able to place before the people are more than ever appreciated, and the demand for further help and improvements is so developing that it is often impossible to meet it with the strength and the organisation that are available.

"The year 1925-26 itself was not a favourable one," says the Director. "I have rarely known a monsoon which was so uncertain as to give rise to an equal amount of anxiety. At one time, early in September 1925, it almost looked as if a famine

was imminent, and though this was saved by the occurrence of widespread rain at the critical moment, yet the season as a whole was, at best, moderate. It was definitely poor over a large part of Gujarat, East Khandesh, and the Eastern Deccan and Karnatak: in the central strip of the Deccan and the Karnatak it was fairly satisfactory; while in the *Ghat* regions and the Konkan it was fully average. In Sind the year was, agriculturally, far below the normal, owing to the late rise and early fall of the river.

" The prices of agricultural produce were almost stationary for the staple food products, but the other marketed crops (specially cotton which is the main money crop of the Bombay Presidency) showed a tendency to fall. The price of cotton was, on the whole, over 24 per cent. below the average of the preceding five years and over 28 per cent. below the price of the last year. These falls in price, combined with the poor season, mean that the farming classes have not had a prosperous year."

Groundnut Cultivation.—The increase in the area under groundnut cultivation as a result of the general availability of the short-period, high oil-bearing types of groundnut introduced originally by the Agricultural Department from Japan and the United States, continued to be very remarkable.

With declining prices for cotton this increase is likely to be continued, but with the success of these crops the temptation to mix the high quality crops now grown with larger yielding but inferior types is great, and during the year complaints were considerable. Every effort is being made to convince the growers of the crop of the necessity of only growing *pure* seed of the known types, but the present danger is great, and it would seem, especially in Khandesh and Upper Gujarat, that all Government Departments interested should combine to do everything in their power to prevent the introduction of inferior types.

Wheat.—" Pusa 12 " wheat is far superior to the local wheats even for *bosi* cultivation, but for irrigation two strains of local wheat have now been evolved which are doing much better even than Pusa 12. They have given respectively an average increased yield over Pusa 12 of 13½ per cent. and of 8¾ per cent., and are now being multiplied for spreading on a large scale.

In the Deccan and Karnatak, three definite pure strains of wheat have now for a series of years given consistently high yields, standing above Pusa 4, the standard type, and are now being multiplied.

Cotton.—Cotton is one of the chief products of the Bombay Presidency, and its improvement has always been one of the chief interests of the Bombay Department of Agriculture.

Sind.—There is the general and increasing adoption of American cotton (of the Punjab types F. 4 and F. 285) in the Jamrao area, where alone these are suitable under existing water conditions. These are high yielding, but the Cotton Breeder in Sind has succeeded in isolating still higher yielding strains from the general Punjab stock. These Punjab American cottons are being multiplied as fast as conditions allow, and very shortly Sind will be quite self-dependent in the matter of American cotton seed.

In Gujarat the advances already made have been brought into more general use in the Broach cotton area, and another distinct step forward has been achieved. Half a million acres, at least, are now under the improved type (1027 A.L.F.) chiefly in the Surat District and the adjoining areas in the Baroda, Rajpipla, Sachin and other States. In the year under report the Chhota Udaipur State has decided to aim at the exclusive growth of this cotton, and the Department of Agriculture is supplying seed to it for the purpose. As before, the Department makes itself responsible for the supply of seed each year for 100,000 acres.

In Khandesh after four or five years' intensive work, two pure strains of improved cotton, now termed Dhulia Nos. 1 and 2 respectively, are being definitely multiplied for distribution.

Karnatak.—The demand for Dharwar No. 1 cotton (a Kumpta selection) of the Agricultural Department has exceeded all bounds. The Hubli Co-operative Cotton Sale Society, which has undertaken its large scale multiplication and which distributed each year seed for over 100,000 acres, is now anxious to multiply its activities many times over, and a scheme is being considered under which the Agricultural Department is asked to increase its breeding area and its primary multiplication area to a very great extent.

Rice.—The work in the North Konkan on the improvement of Kolamba rice has now become popular. The type which the Department is spreading gives 20 per cent. increase in yield on the usual types grown. At Karjat where the above rice was evolved, a second type has been produced which is proving a great success in the South Konkan at Ratnagiri, and is being multiplied for wide distribution there.

So far as rice is concerned, progress has been nowhere greater than in Upper Sind, where rice selection has been going on for

some years at Larkana. In *Kangani* rice strains have been isolated giving from 19 to 31 per cent. greater yield than the local types of this rice, and very similar results have been reached with other varieties. The demand for the Department seeds has grown very keen as a result of their trial by a few zamindars.

Tobacco.—One of the greatest of recent successes has been the rapid extension of the use of the tobacco strain isolated in Upper Gujarat at the Nadiad Station. Two bulletins have been recently issued on tobacco improvement in North Gujarat giving information regarding the above strain, the results of the latest experiments on tobacco manuring which afford a practicable and profitable method of treating tobacco, and the results of recent successful experiments on the methods of treating inferior and bad patches in tobacco fields.

Jowar.—This is the premier cereal crop, occupying over 8,000,000 acres each year. Efforts to improve the yield of varieties in cultivation are in progress at Dharwar, Surat and Larkana. In Dharwar, as the result of five years' work the Department has improved seed to distribute in the transition tract capable of giving from 12 to 24 per cent. increased yield. The multiplication of these is now being taken vigorously in hand. At Surat, the seed of our selection entitled '*Althandeshi*' is now being multiplied and distributed, as it has given from 147 to 230 lbs. of *jowar* grain per acre more than the local types.

The above refer to investigations into crops which are financed from the ordinary budget of the Agricultural Department. Other schemes for the improvement of crops have been financed again by the Indian Central Cotton Committee, and by the Sir Sassoon David Trustees, including study of cotton boll shedding and the spotted boll worm at Surat, and the study of cotton wilt and American cotton at Dharwar, the improvement of grass lands and the bajri and mango crops.

Improvements on Tillage and on Implements.—The Agricultural Engineer attached to the Department of Agriculture has devoted a good deal of time in the year under report to devising modifications of agricultural implements, suited for Bombay conditions. Five of these were perfected during the year. The modifications relate to (1) the Orient plough in use in Sind by which the cost can be reduced from Rs. 38·8 to Rs. 20 without any sacrifice of efficiency. It has been tried extensively, with success, both in Sind and at Manjri Farm; (2) a seed drill suitable to country use, capable of being made locally out of locally available material; (3) a removeable part for the ploughshare of the C. T. 2 plough (the most common size used

in the Deccan black soil) made of a special alloy which resists the wear which so reduces the life of ploughs when ploughing dry soils, (4) a cheaper winnowing machine than any on the market. All these are now ready, and arrangements for manufacture are being made.

During the year there was a very considerable development of the use of motor tractors, more particularly in Gujarat.

Ridge cultivation.—There is a rapid extension of the newly introduced method of ridge cultivation in lower Gujarat. This method, designed to deal with the very great chances of water-logging in the early part of the season, has now extended into new areas, and about 100 acres were put under it as a demonstration in the Olpad Taluka of the Surat District to which it seems particularly applicable. In a very few years it is expected that it will become general in the black soil areas of Lower Gujarat, and that the results, on the average, will be an increase of crop of from twenty to twenty-five per cent.

A reference may be made to the extension of certain artificial manures in recent years as a result, largely, of the work of the Agricultural Department, as the uses of Sulphate of Ammonia for sugarcane and of castor cake for cotton in Khandesh have now almost been matter of general practice. Some other manurial treatments though proved successful are still demanding very widespread demonstration.

INSECT AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PESTS

The year 1925-26 was, on the whole, a somewhat severe one in the matter of attack of insect pests on the crops usually cultivated. The ordinary pests which every year cause widespread damage, such as the *jowar* borer, the spotted bollworm of cotton and the like, were prevalent, while there were certain special attacks, particularly that of the Deccan wingless grasshopper (*Colemannia*) which attacks most of the cereal crops both when young and when nearly ripe. Some fifteen years ago this pest caused consternation in all the *jowar* growing tracts of the Southern parts of the Bombay Presidency, and did an immense amount of damage. Nothing that could be done helped matters much, but the pest died down, and between 1915 and 1924 little was heard of it. In 1924 serious damage was again reported, but this was very much worse in 1925. The insect is a most difficult one to tackle, but if it continues and increases, as it is feared will be the case, it will demand very serious study and action. While discussing grasshoppers, attention may also be called to the very serious recrudescence of

COTTON GROWN UNDER RIDGE CULTIVATION BY THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT AT POONA

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the Belgaum rice grasshopper (*Hieroglyphus furcifer*) in the year under report. This insect which almost ruined the rice crop round Belgaum, was systematically dealt with by bagging in the years before 1919. Then it seemed to have almost disappeared. A recrudescence is now occurring, and will have again to be taken in hand.

Among caterpillar pests, special reference must be made to the swarming caterpillars (*katra*) of the Panch Mahals, Kaira, and adjoining districts in Gujarat (*Amsacta moorei*) which form an annual menace in these districts. It seems clear that a combination of the use of lights to attract the moths, and a dusting of the young crops of maize, bajri and pulses with a mixture of flour and Paris Green is capable of dealing with the pest at a cost for materials of not more than one rupee per acre. This method now only needs pushing and its extension in the affected areas is one of the next important works of the Agricultural Department. Another caterpillar pest did serious damage to rice in the South Konkan in the year under report. This is the rice swarming caterpillar (*Spodoptera mauritia*) which appeared in vast numbers, most intensely in certain village of the Savantwadi State, stripped the leaves to the midrib and spread rapidly from field to field.

In October and November 1925 a very alarming attack occurred on cotton by the cotton caterpillar (*Cosmophila erosa*) in the Dharwar District and also in Ahmednagar. Information of its presence in Dharwar was received on October 12th, and the caterpillar almost if not entirely defoliated the plants. This insect annually does *some* damage, but in the present year the attack was phenomenal.

In speaking of rice, attention should be called to the very serious damage done to this crop in Upper Sind, especially in the Larkana District, by the disease locally known as *rati* or rust. It has no connection with the well-known rust-fungi, but is characterised by the presence of spots of black fungus, growing on the leaves. It was credited with causing a loss up to a quarter of the crop in many areas in 1925. So far the cause is quite unknown, but it is being investigated in detail in the present year.

The first really serious investigation of the mango blight which annually reduces the commercial mango crop in the Konkan by an enormous amount was undertaken in the year under report. A special section of the Agricultural Department was established at Ratnagiri under a subsidy from the Sir Sassoon David Trust Fund for this purpose. The results obtained are in too early

a stage to warrant a description of results, but everything seems to indicate that the part played by the mango hopper or *jassid* is not so vital as has been hitherto thought.

During the year 1925-26, a very serious investigation has been completed on the field rat pests of Lower Sind where these pests annually take a toll of about one-eighth of the entire crop in certain areas. The main culprit has now been identified as the Sind mole rat (*Gunomys sindicus*) and a method devised for fumigating the burrows with carbon bisulphide vapour at a cost of not more than Rs. 1-4-0 per acre. An extensive experiment over five square miles of country is in progress in 1926 with this method—and with similar use of Calcium Cyanide—with very promising results.

Live Stock Improvement.—The work of the Agricultural Department in the direction of cattle improvement consists in the maintenance of herds of cattle of high quality at Karachi (Red Karachi breed with some Thar and Parkar cattle), at Chharodi in Upper Gajarat and at Surat (Kankrej breed) and at Bankapur in Dharwar (Amrit Mahal breed), in assisting other bodies to maintain high class herds of cattle and in putting out premium bulls among the villages of the Bombay Presidency.

As regards the work on the cattle farms belonging to the Department, a reference may be made to the manifest improvement in the stock at each of them. At Chharodi, the oldest and largest farm designed for the Kankrej breed, stress is being laid on trueness to type, early maturity, regularity in calving, and increase in the milking capacity of the animals without interfering with the drought qualities of the breed. The standard of milk yield is improving (milking was only started in 1920) and the animals are maturing much earlier, the average age of the first calf having been reduced by nine months since 1921-22. Seven premium bulls were put out from this farm in the year under report. Ten premium bulls of the Kankrej type were distributed from the Surat herd. At Karachi, where the herd is essentially composed of cattle of the Red Karachi breed, renowned for its milking qualities, the Department has now perhaps the finest herd in Sind. There are now two cows giving over 8,500 lbs., two giving over 6,500 lbs. and nine giving over 5,000 lbs. per lactation. This is in addition to the amount taken by the calf, since here all calves are suckled by the mother.

There are very excellent herds of Sindhi cattle and Surat buffaloes at the Agricultural College, Poona. These are maintained primarily for teaching purposes, but advantage has been taken to breed cattle of high class milking capacity. After making

ONE OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT'S PREMIUM BULLS

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allowance for the cost of teaching, the College Dairy now pays very well.

Live Stock improvement is also carried out in co-operation with certain public bodies, notably with the Bombay Gowrakshans at Kandivli and at Mulund. At the former, the Gowrakshan authorities are maintaining in co-operation with Government a herd of pure bred " Gir " bulls. The farm started two years ago with forty herd of as pure Gir cows as were available with two bulls. The herd now has 92 head of live stock, with 14 young bulls now nearly ready for issue as premium bulls. The yield of milk per cow is rapidly increasing.

As regards premium bulls, there are now 168 of these out in the District, and they are doing exceedingly good work. They consist of bulls of pedigree stock from our farms or associated institutions, or of the best quality obtainable where farm animals are not available put out in villages where they stand to serve the surrounding cattle. A record of service is kept and the support of the bull is paid for, at least partially, by Government. The effect of such premium bulls on the cattle of an area is remarkable, and is so obvious that the demand for premium bulls is rapidly increasing. It is being illustrated in a striking manner in the Presidency Agricultural Show in Poona in 1926.

Very successful experiments have been made on the improvement of Deccan sheep by the use of three-quarters bred merino rams from Hissar. These are being carried out by Rao Saheb S. S. Mangsuli at Athni in the Belgaum District in co-operation with the Agricultural Department, the rams being provided by the Department. The result has been very substantial, including very great increase in the weight and character of the fleece, and in the size of the sheep. The rams from the Punjab are not hardy enough to stand the Deccan conditions and several have died, but the progeny seem healthy enough.

PROPAGANDA AND ORGANISATION

The discovery of improvements is a very small step in the greater part of Western India, to getting them introduced. The much larger step of bringing them to the knowledge of the people is being undertaken by district officers of whom there are an average of two per district, working under the control of a corps of six Deputy Directors of Agriculture, by certain officers of the Co-operative Department, termed Agricultural Organisers, who have done similar duties but with special stress laid on the organisation of the population for agricultural purposes into co-operative societies, and by officers of the Revenue

Department, whose assistance in the introduction of certain agricultural improvements has been of very great value.

The Taluka Development Associations movement has made considerable progress during the year under report. A year ago there were forty-eight such associations in existence, now there are fifty-nine. Out of this number, fifty-five have been registered under the Co-operative Societies Act. Subsidies amounting to Rs. 23,627 were paid to these Associations in the year under report.

The lines of work which these Associations undertake has been similar to that in previous years. They have been very actively engaged in extending the use of improved implements of ordinary kinds, and many of them have depôts for the hire of implements. These Associations are becoming or have become a very essential part of agricultural propaganda in the country, and District Local Boards and Taluka Local Boards are both subsidising, to a limited extent, the Associations in their districts.

In the matter of rural propaganda, the Agricultural Department works in close co-ordination with the Co-operative Department, as it is the recognised policy that wherever possible any attempt to organise the rural community should be on co-operative lines. This co-ordination is secured by the existence of Divisional Boards of Agriculture, which are predominently non-official and meet once a quarter and control the propaganda and organising work of both departments in the various districts.

Cotton Transport Act.—The working of the Cotton Transport Act during the year under report has been eventful, but there is now general satisfaction, and it has without doubt prevented admixture of cotton in many areas. In Gujarat, as the Co-operative Societies in the Olpad Taluka have agreed to sow the approved cotton seed of the Agricultural Department, the restriction as to transport of cotton *by road* over the country to the south of the Narbada river has been removed. The success of this policy of relaxation will depend, of course, on the very rapid elimination of inferior cottons all over this area. The demand for guaranteed seed is far greater than the Department can supply. Although nearly sixteen lakhs of pounds of seed were distributed in the year under report, demands were received for five lakhs of pounds more which could not be supplied.

SERVICE

Apart from research and propaganda, there are certain services which the Agricultural Department performs for the agricultural public, the chief being the supply of certain kinds of

seed in large quantities, and of implements and manures in certain cases, the boring of wells and the designing of pumping plants, and, in recent years, the designing of land improvement works for construction by individuals or by Co-operative Societies.

Land Development.—The loss which annually occurs owing to the run-off, from the surface of the land, of the water which falls in the famine district is very great indeed, and there have always been efforts by almost every energetic cultivator to prevent these losses, and to provide irrigation from tanks formed by such run-off water, or to embank villages so as to increase the water in wells lying below the land,—or to protect land by terraces or bunds across the surface. Technical skill is not always present, and to meet the need the Agricultural Department has employed two men.

The first of these is an engineer, styled the Land Development Officer, whose duty has been to prepare small schemes belonging to each of the above kinds. In the year under report, he has investigated forty-eight schemes.

The work done by the Land Development Officer has been much appreciated,—so much so, in fact, that the class of work which he was appointed two years ago to do has now been extended, so far as the famine districts are concerned, and a separate department under a Superintending Engineer created to do it. As a result the appointment of Land Development Officer, attached to the Agricultural Department, has ceased to exist from June 1926.

The second type of man is called "Bunding Officer." He devotes himself entirely to the preparation of schemes for field embankments or *tals*.

This work has attracted much attention and has been so much appreciated that at the end of the year, Government sanctioned the appointment of two additional bunding officers of the same class. One of these will also work in the Southern Division, and the other chiefly in the Deccan.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Agricultural College.—The Poona Agricultural College has now entered upon its eighteenth year, and it is as popular as ever. This year (1926) there were 72 new students, 61 from the Bombay Presidency and 11 from outside, and this with 11 old students who rejoined after failure, made 83 in the first year class. This is quite as much as the College can deal with. The total number now on the roll of the College is 218. The demand for admission from all parts of India continues,

but now the admission for students outside the Bombay Presidency has been limited to about 10 per cent. of the total in the first year's class.

The year under report is the first during which the new University course has been in use, and on the whole it has been considered satisfactory, and an improvement in that which preceded it. Its introduction has necessitated the appointment of two additional demonstrators in the Agricultural Engineering section of the College, and of a demonstrator of Agricultural Economics.

Agricultural Schools.—The number of vernacular Agricultural Schools working remains 6 as before. These are as follows, with the number of students in each :—

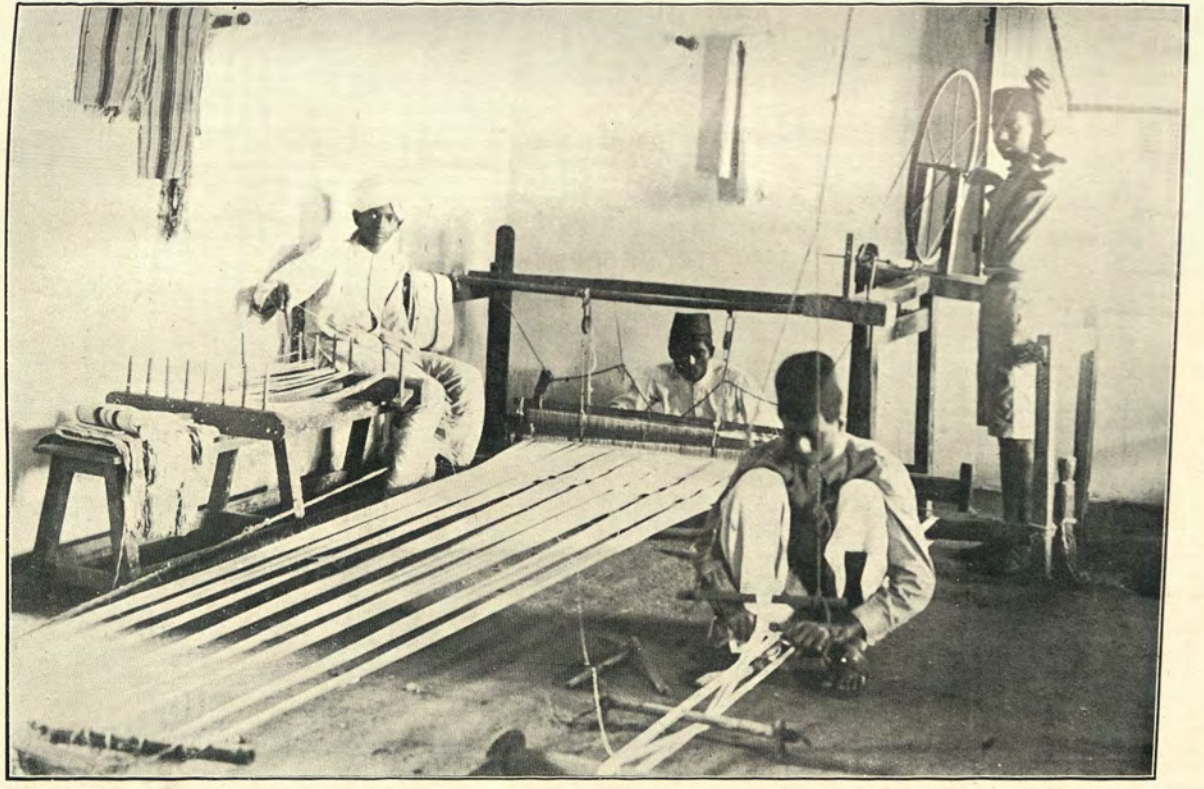
Marathi	..	Loni (Poona) 47, Jambul (Thana) 25 and Dhulia (Khandesh) 29.
Kanarese	..	Devi-Hosur (Dharwar) 27.
Gujarati	..	Godhra (Panch Mahals) 34 and Surat 29.

It will be seen that in every case there is an increase on the previous year's figure, the total for the six schools now amounting to 191 as against 169 a year previously or an increase of 13 per cent. The schools are all now practically full.

They remain popular, and all receive a certain amount of support from District Local Boards, and some from private bodies. The boys leaving them are in demand, and either go to their own farms or are snapped up by others who need lads with such training.

Agricultural Bias Schools.—The new type of primary schools with an agricultural bias, first established in 1922, has been extended in the year under report and from 1926 there will be 63 schools of this type. The Department trains teachers for these schools, doing the work at the Vernacular Agricultural Schools previously described, and through the Inspector of Agricultural Schools, inspects the technical work done in these schools. The results so far obtained seem satisfactory, the schools have become popular, and the number will be increased as fast as teachers are available properly trained to take charge of the classes.

Statistics.—The Director of Agriculture is responsible for the agricultural and price statistics published in the Bombay Presidency and for the forecast of crops issued periodically during the year. Forecasts are being issued in increasing numbers—the latest addition being that on the castor crop started in 1924 at the request of a number of commercial firms in Bombay.



WEAVING BY SCHOOL BOYS AT THE DEVI-HOSUR AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL

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SOCIETY.

During the year the work of compiling statistics of the cotton pressed in the Bombay Presidency was taken up by the Director of Agriculture under the provisions of the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act. For the first time the Department has now a means of checking the accuracy of our forecasts of cotton production, and especially in the Presidency Proper they stood the test very well.

FINANCE

The expenditure of the Department amounted to Rs. 16·14 lakhs during the financial year 1925-26 as against Rs. 15·90 lakhs in the previous year. The receipts amounted to Rs. 3·09 lakhs as against Rs. 3·28 lakhs in the previous year.

Subsidies were received from the Indian Central Cotton Committee to the amount of Rs. 71,046 and Rs. 34,335 from the Sir Sassoon David Trustees.

NOTE ON THE WEATHER

I. The period, April and May 1925.—The western disturbances that entered Northwest India during the month of April were feeble and consequently the weather over this Presidency and in the central parts of the country was dry and hot. Local thunderstorms occurred as usual over the Peninsula. Rainfall was nearly normal in the Bombay Deccan, in slight defect in the Konkan and absent in Sind and Gujarat. There were the usual scattered thunder showers in the Peninsula during the first half of the month of May, the most active period being from the 3rd to the 8th. The outstanding feature of the month's weather was the early appearance of the monsoon. Rainfall increased in Malabar on the 27th May and extended northwards to Bombay and into the central parts of the country on the 28th. The advance continued to be vigorous for the next two days. The rainfall during the month was in excess of the normal by 250 per cent. in Gujarat, by 123 per cent. in the Konkan, and by 67 per cent. in the Bombay Deccan, and in defect by 43 per cent. in Sind.

II. The Monsoon period, June to September 1925.—The month of June began with a strong monsoon on the west coast. A wave of low pressure which was off the Konkan on the 1st developed into a depression off the south Kathiawar coast on the morning of the 2nd and crossed into Gujarat the same day. This remained nearly stationary over Gujarat for the next two days and intensified. It then advanced north-eastwards through Central India West and disappeared over the east

United Provinces on the 7th. There was a concentration of rainfall near the depression and heavy falls were reported between the 1st and the 5th from stations in the north Konkan, Khandesh and parts of Kathiawar ; floods were also reported in parts of Junagad, Jamnagar and Bhavnagar. This period of activity was followed by a break in the monsoon between the 8th and 15th. There was again a revival on the 16th. Heavy rain fell on the west coast from Ratnagiri southwards between the 19th and the 25th. The rainfall during the month was 24 per cent. in excess in Sind, 103 per cent. in excess in Gujarat, 21 per cent. in excess in the Konkan, and 14 per cent. in defect in the Bombay Deccan.

The monsoon was weak in the Peninsula till the 9th July, and moderately active in other places. It strengthened on that date and remained more or less vigorous for the rest of the month. The total rainfall of the month was in defect everywhere in the Bombay Presidency, 54 per cent. in Sind, 59 per cent. in Gujarat, 39 per cent. in the Konkan and 20 per cent. in the Bombay Deccan.

The Arabian Sea monsoon was intermittently active during the month of August. On the first two days, it was vigorous from the frontier to the east of the United Provinces and fairly active in the south of the Peninsula. There was a weakening during the next two days followed again by a revival on the 5th. More or less widespread rain fell between the 5th and the 7th. On the 8th, the monsoon extended into Sind, but was generally weak in the inland parts of the country. It again became active on the 9th and heavy rainfall occurred between the 10th and 12th along the Himalayas, causing floods in many of the north Indian rivers.

The monsoon practically withdrew from Northwest India on the 14th but remained more or less active in the Peninsula throughout the month. The rainfall of the month was 25 per cent. in defect in Sind, 72 per cent. in Gujarat and normal in the Konkan and the Bombay Deccan.

The Arabian Sea monsoon was very weak during the month of September ; under the influence of three depressions from the Bay it was diverted to the central parts of the country and to the Gangetic plain. Thundery conditions prevailed in the Peninsula from the 17th till the end of the month. Rainfall was 21 per cent. in defect in the Bombay Deccan, 76 per cent. in the Konkan, 89 per cent. in Gujarat and cent. per cent. in Sind.

III. The Retreating Monsoon period, October to December 1925.—Winter conditions set in early in northwest

India and western disturbances were unusually numerous and active, but their activity was generally confined to the Punjab and the neighbouring regions. Only one of them took a more southerly course than usual and caused local rain in the central parts of the country on the 18th October. Between the 3rd and 7th November an active western disturbance caused widespread and abundant rainfall in the region between Baluchistan and the north of the Central Provinces. The northeast monsoon was fairly vigorous and in connection with it two storms developed. The first storm caused widespread and very heavy rain in south India, resulting in floods in the Madura and Tinnevelly Districts and breaches in South Indian Railway. It was responsible for widespread and moderately heavy rain from the north Bombay Deccan to the United Provinces and west Bihar on the 9th and in the northern half of the Peninsula between the 10th and the 13th. Hail-storms of exceptional severity are reported to have occurred in Bhavnagar State. The rainfall of the month was four and a half times the normal quantity in Sind, 43 per cent. in excess in Gujarat, 90 per cent. in excess in the Bombay Deccan and 38 per cent. in defect in the Konkan. Dry settled weather prevailed generally in December. During the last five days of the month conditions were slightly unsettled over the central parts of the country and there was local rain in the west of the Central Provinces and the adjoining districts of the Bombay Deccan. There was no rainfall in Sind and Gujarat and practically none in the Konkan. Bombay Deccan received more than its usual quantity, the excess being 37 per cent.

IV. The period, January to March 1926.—Seven western disturbances entered India during the month of January ; they were on the whole weaker than usual, but the first one caused widespread rain from the Konkan to Orissa between the 1st and the 4th ; two inches of rain fell at Bombay on the 3rd and heavy rain was also reported to have occurred on the Ghats. The disturbance which appeared on the frontier on the 28th followed a more southerly track than usual and owing to combination with unsettled conditions in the centre of the country caused widespread rainfall from Hyderabad to Gujarat, Rajputana and the United Provinces west. There was a strong revival of the monsoon in the Bay during the last week of the month and it caused unusually copious rains in the Peninsula and the Central Provinces. Sholapur and Aurangabad each received two inches of rainfall on the 29th. Rainfall was four times the normal in Gujarat, thirteen times the normal in the Konkan

and ten times the normal in the Bombay Deccan and 33 per cent. in defect in Sind.

In March the western disturbances were remarkably active and moreover followed a more southerly track than usual; they therefore produced exceptionally heavy rain over Northern and Central India. In all, seven fresh disturbances entered India during March. The fourth disturbance of the month caused a severe thunderstorm at Karachi on the night of the 12th by which three sepoys were killed. In the Bombay Presidency, the rainfall was confined to Sind where it was more than three times the normal.

PRICES

Retail Prices.—In March 1926 there was a rise in the prices of foodgrains in the Presidency as compared with the corresponding month last year. The simple arithmetic index number of the prices of six foodgrains recorded a rise in each of the Divisions except the Central Division and in Bombay City. The retail prices of the eleven articles included in the index for the " Other food " group showed a tendency towards a decline.

Northern Division.—The index number for foodgrains was 147 as against 138 during March 1925. The percentage rise in prices over July 1914 and March 1925 was the highest in this division of the Presidency. With the exception of Surat and Thana, all the other districts reported an upward tendency in the prices of foodgrains on account of smaller outturn due to inadequate rains. The scarcity of fodder was seriously felt in the Kaira and Thana districts in the hot weather owing to the late monsoon. Ghee was cheaper and milk stationary at Ahmedabad but the prices of both ruled high at Broach. Bajri sold at an exceptionally high rate in Broach. In Surat, the rice crop was poor; but there was no marked difference in its price owing to the importation of rice from outside. Thana alone reported a downward tendency in the prices of rice, nagli and other commodities of food as a result of a general depression in trade. The decrease in the price of cocoanuts in that district was due to people in Bassein Taluka having taken to cocoanut plantation on a larger scale in the sea-coast villages.

Central Division.—The price of foodgrains showed a tendency to fall and the index stood at 137 in March 1926 as against 139 a year ago. The fall in prices was due to a fairly good season, to less exportation from Ahmednagar, to an abundant outturn of foodstuffs and kadbi at Sholapur and to a good kharif harvest combined with importation from outside in Poona. There was an increase in the price of wheat and gram in Poona

and Satara due to the failure of late (*i.e.*, October) rains in both the districts, the nuisance of insects at Poona and the abnormal cold at Satara. Early rains were insufficient for the sowing of kharif crop at Sholapur but the late rains were timely and sufficient for the rabi crops. Ghee in West Khandesh declined from Rs. 91-6-10 to Rs. 80 per maund and cleaned cotton from Rs. 44 to Rs. 40 per palla. Bajri and wheat are the chief products of the Nasik District and the prices of these remained practically stationary throughout the year. The supply of kadbi and dry grass at Poona and Satara was on the whole adequate.

Southern Division.—Although there was a slight rise in the general level of retail prices of foodgrains for March 1926 (138) as compared with March 1925 (137) a steady fall in prices with slight fluctuations was reported from Belgaum, Bijapur and Dharwar. In the Kanara, Kolaba and Ratnagiri districts the prices of foodgrains were almost stationary. Kadbi and grass showed a downward tendency at Belgaum. In Bijapur, the staple foodgrain, *viz.*, jowari, was cheaper, rice and turdal were imported from outside as usual and kadbi was sold at Rs. 5 per cart of 700 lbs. as against Rs. 7 in the previous year. The fall in the price of turdal at Dharwar was due to larger imports from outside. In Kanara, the rise in the price of cocoanuts from Rs. 8-8-0 to Rs. 9 per hundred was due to less yield and also to exports outside the district. Ghee declined from Rs. 86-2-10 to Rs. 77-5-0 per maund in Ratnagiri.

Sind.—The rise in foodgrain prices was 44 per cent. above the prewar level. The index number for foodgrains in March 1926 was 7 points above the level of the corresponding month in the previous year. The increase in prices was mainly due to insufficient inundation and rainfall and the consequent failure of the kharif crops. In Nawabshah, the increased demand from abroad also contributed to this rise to some extent. In Karachi prices rose considerably at the end of the year. Fodder sold at Rs. 35 per 1,000 lbs. against Rs. 25 reported for the previous year. In Larkana the prices of wheat, mung and jowari advanced but rice recorded a slight fall. The increase in the price of bajri was appreciable in Thar and Parkar and Hyderabad but rice and ghee showed a downward tendency in Hyderabad.

Bombay City.—The general level of retail prices of foodgrains (132) was lower by 4 points as compared with March 1925 (136). The "other food" index stood at 184 as against 187 last year and was more or less stationary during the period. The working class cost of living index which takes into account food, fuel and lighting, clothing and house-rent, declined from 159 in

March 1925 to 155 in March 1926. The following tables give the unweighted index numbers of the prices of six foodgrains and eleven other food articles :—

Index Numbers of Retail Prices of foodgrains*

July 1914 = 100

Divisions	March 1924	March 1925	March 1926
Northern Division	126	138	147
Central Division	127	139	137
Southern Division	144	137	138
Sind	116	137	144
Presidency (excluding Bombay City) ..	128	137	141
Bombay City	122	136	132

*Foodgrains included are :—Rice, wheat, jowari, bajri, gram and turdal.

Index Numbers of Retail Prices of other food articles*

July 1914 = 100

Divisions	March 1924	March 1925	March 1926
Northern Division	188	173	167
Central Division	173	166	158
Southern Division	181	169	158
Sind	189	171	169
Presidency (excluding Bombay City) ..	183	169	163
Bombay City	200	187	184

* Other food articles included are :—Sugar (refined), raw sugar (gul), tea, salt, beef, mutton, milk, ghee, potatoes, onions and cocoanut oil.

Wholesale Prices.—There were considerable fluctuations in the wholesale prices in Bombay city. Pulses rose up to November and then showed a tendency to fall. The food index decreased by 20 points with small fluctuations. Raw cotton registered a fall of 65 points and cotton manufactures of 26 points during the twelve months ending March 1926. The non-food index number fell by 20 points while the general index number fell by 21 points. The changes in the index numbers

of the different groups included in the Bombay Wholesale Prices Index are set out in the following table :—

Group Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Bombay City

July 1914 = 100

Groups	March 1924	March 1925	March 1926	Increase (+) or decrease (−) in points in March 1926 over or below March 1925
Cereals	123	154	148	− 6
Pulses	84	99	117	+ 18
Sugar	220	175	146	− 29
Other food	263	219	152	− 67
All foods	165	164	144	− 20
Oilseeds	129	136	127	− 9
Raw cotton	244	209	144	− 65
Cotton manufactures	238	212	186	− 26
Other textiles	235	160	145	− 15
Hides and skins	140	145	147	+ 2
Metals	171	162	151	− 11
Other raw and manufactured articles ..	164	166	153	− 13
All non-foods	190	174	154	− 20
All articles	181	171	150	− 21

In Broach, seed cotton fluctuated greatly and fell from Rs. 250 per bhar (24 maunds of 40 lbs. each) to as low as Rs. 175 per bhar. The price of ginned cotton declined from Rs. 480 per bhar to below Rs. 400. In Kaira, in spite of a normal outturn of cotton, its price went down by about 50 per cent. at the end of the season ; and in Surat it declined from Rs. 65-0-8 to Rs. 49-11-8 per Indian maund. In Thana, the price of timber, bricks and other building materials was reported to be lower owing to the slump in trade, shortness of money and the bad harvest in Kathiawar and Gujarat to which places much of the Thana timber is exported.

The following table shows the food, non-food and general index numbers of wholesale prices in Karachi :—

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Karachi

July 1914 = 100

Groups	March 1924	March 1925	March 1926	Increase (+) or decrease (—) in points in March 1926 over or below March 1925
Foods	124	151	144	— 7
Non-foods	166	162	140	22
All articles	149	158	142	— 16

The food index gradually declined till October 1925 (134), suddenly increased in November (149) and after December (151) again showed a downward tendency. Up to June the non-food index fell. It then rose until September and began to fall again after November. The general index which stood at 146 from June to October 1925 rose by 5 points in November but went down gradually afterwards.

LABOUR AND WAGES

The purchasing power of the rupee, on the basis of the Cost of Living Index for Working Classes in Bombay City, as compared with July 1914, rose from ten annas and two pies for the twelve months ending 31st March 1925 to ten annas and five pies for the twelve months ending 31st March 1926. Expressed in terms of percentages, the Cost of Living Index fell from 157 to 154. The rise in the purchasing power of the rupee had no effect in reducing the rates of wages for non-industrial District Labour. The position of skilled and unskilled labourers, both with regard to nominal and real wages, showed a considerable improvement during the year ; and the condition of the labouring classes as a whole is reported to be much better today than it has been since the beginning of this century. A general improvement in the style and standard of living is reported from all parts of the Presidency, but there appears to be no corresponding improvement in efficiency. Hours of labour are shorter and sunrise to sunset work has to be remunerated at a higher wage. The general hours of work appear to be from 9 a.m. to 5-30 or 6 p.m. with a midday rest interval of one to two hours.

Agricultural Labour.—All districts in the Northern Division reported that Field Labour continued to be scarce and costly. In the Thana District, agriculture suffered on account of a general shortage of field labourers due to the employment of large numbers of workpeople on the electrification schemes of the G. I. P. and the B. B. & C. I. Railways and on other development and constructional works in Bombay to both of which Thanaites migrated in large numbers. In the Bhiwandi Taluka, rice cultivators were forced to employ imported labour and to remunerate it at Re. 1 per head per day with cooked rations valued at six annas. The general rates of wages for field labourers varied from twelve annas to Re. 1 per day. Similar migration of agricultural labourers to industrial tracts was responsible for a scarcity in the Surat District. In Broach, the only area where the supply was sufficient to meet the demand was in the Bahara Tract where the rainfall was scanty. In the rest of this District male field labourers were able to command a wage of more than a rupee a day with food. Most of the agricultural work in Broach District is, however, done by permanent servants who receive food and clothing in addition to a lump sum payment in cash every year. In the Ahmedabad District, wages fell slightly in the Prantij, Modasa and Sanand Talukas and rose in Dholka and Dhandhuka. During the harvesting season farmers were compelled to pay much higher rates and notwithstanding slight falls in wage rates in a few Talukas of the Division, there was an increase of 23 per cent. in urban areas and 22 per cent. in rural areas as compared with the year 1924.

In the Central Division the daily average rates of wages of field labourers rose by 14 per cent. in urban areas and by 7 per cent. in rural areas over the rates of 1924. There was a constant demand for these labourers all over the Poona District except in Sirur Taluka and Dhond Petha where the crops had failed. Labour migrated from these areas to the irrigated tracts and to other busy centres. The large influx of cotton mill workers from Bombay City into the Satara District during the protracted general strike in the Textile industry during the last quarter of the year 1925 led to an expansion in the supply of labour in the district with the result that unskilled labour could be had in abundance at low rates of wages for the harvesting season. Field labour from the eastern talukas, where the rainfall is scant and uncertain, was obliged to go out in search of employment during the fair season in order to supplement their income from the land. There was a scarcity in the Man Taluka where the rates went up from six annas to eight annas per day. Good

wages were to be had in the Patan Taluka during the harvesting of the groundnut and rabi crops for all labourers who came down for work from the western hilly tracts. More favourable seasonal conditions in the Ahmednagar District were responsible for a prosperous year for labour and there was a marked increase in wage rates for all classes of skilled and unskilled workers. The agricultural labour market continued to remain in a disturbed condition in the West Khandesh District where the general complaint of the agriculturists was that Saldars (yearly field labourers) were expensive and unreliable and that the cost of farming had risen much faster than the profits of cultivation. Owing to a deficiency in rainfall in the months of September and October, the season was unfavourable in the East Khandesh District and this had an effect on the harvesting of crops. The demand for field labour fell sharply during March, April and May with a consequential decline in the rates of wages during those months. Industrial demands in the Sholapur District continued to be responsible for the maintenance of the high rates of wages for agricultural labour in that district.

In the Southern Division there was an increase of 25 per cent. in the wages of field labourers in rural tracts in 1925 as compared with the previous year but in urban tracts the rates remained stationary. There was a consistently good demand for agricultural labour throughout the whole division except in the Athni and Gokak Talukas and in the Eastern part of Saundati Taluka in the Belgaum District owing to the want of sufficient rainfall. Field labourers earned as much as a rupee for a working day of eight hours in the Belgaum District but in the Ratnagiri District which is a purely agricultural tract the general level remained at eight annas six pies per day except in Malwan where the rates were as high as twelve annas. The demand for labour on forest works in and outside Karwar Taluka was responsible for an increase in agricultural wage rates in the Kanara District and it is becoming more and more difficult to obtain the labour required for agricultural operations in the above-ghat areas. The supply from South Kanara is also reported to be diminishing. The prickly pear campaign in the Eastern Talukas of the Dharwar District continued during the year and provided ample work in the off season.

The steady increase in the rates of wages of field labourers which has been so noticeable in the rural areas of Sind for the last few years continued during the year under review. As compared with the prewar year agricultural labour was 116 per cent. more expensive in urban areas and 122 per cent. dearer in

rural areas. As compared with the previous year the percentage increases were 18 and 13 respectively. The districts reporting specifically on this class of labour state that the supply was sufficient to meet the demand—the increase in the rates being reported to be due to Sukkur Barrage operations. Hyderabad District was almost free from malaria and infectious diseases and as a consequence there was not the same migration from the district into other districts in the vicinity. The following table gives the average daily wages of field labourers in the neighbourhood of District Headquarter towns (urban areas) and in more rural areas by Divisions and Economic Circles and for the Presidency with and without Sind for the years 1913, 1924 and 1925.

Divisions	Daily average wages in					
	1913		1924		1925	
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Political Divisions—						
Northern Division ..	0 4 9	0 3 9	0 9 9	0 8 0	0 12 0	0 9 9
Central Division ..	0 5 0	0 4 3	0 9 0	0 7 6	0 10 3	0 8 0
Southern Division ..	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 8 9	0 6 0	0 8 9	0 7 6
Economic Circles—						
Gujarat Circle ..	0 4 6	0 3 9	0 9 3	0 8 0	0 10 9	0 10 3
Deccan Circle ..	0 4 6	0 4 0	0 8 6	0 6 6	0 9 6	0 7 6
Konkan Circle ..	0 5 3	0 4 6	0 11 3	0 9 3	0 12 6	0 9 3
Presidency Proper ..	0 4 9	0 4 0	0 9 3	0 7 3	0 10 3	0 8 3
Sind	0 7 9	0 8 0	0 14 3	0 15 9	1 0 9	1 1 9
Whole Presidency ..	0 4 9	0 4 3	0 9 3	0 7 6	0 10 6	0 8 9

Unskilled Labour.—There was no change in the rates of daily average wages of unskilled or ordinary labourers during the year under review, as compared with the previous year, in the rural areas of the Bombay Presidency, both excluding and including Sind. In urban areas, there was an improvement of 6 per cent. Sind, as usual, reports increases in the rates; but for the

year 1925, the unskilled labour market in that Division was considerably influenced as a result of the big demand made on it for the extensive operations in connexion with the Sukkur Barrage. In the rural areas of the Northern Division the rates fell by 7 per cent. The Central Division showed a general increase of 3 per cent. and the Southern Division 10 per cent. Individual districts showed increases or decreases in accordance with the laws of supply and demand but a general levelling up of the rates in all districts of the Presidency Proper is noticeable as a consequence of the increasing mobility of labour.

In the Northern Division, unskilled labour was 50 per cent. dearer in the South Daskroi Taluka of the Ahmedabad District owing to a big demand for building operations. In the Dohad Division of the Panch Mahals District, the Bhils who were in need of work found employment on Railway construction works. The Manganese Mines at Shivrajpur and Bamankua in the Halol Mahal attracted a number of labourers from outside. Labour also migrated from the Satara District to the works at the Bhatgar Dam, the Water Works at Vita and the Nira Right Bank Canal. In the Nasik District, the railway workshops at Igatpuri, Manmad and Nandgaon, general earthwork on the whole Railway lines, the Jail and the Security Printing Press building works, the Bidi Manufacture at Sinnar, the gold and silver thread industry at Yeola and the large forest operations at Badgi and Mulsa in the Peint Taluka gave considerable employment to large numbers of labourers throughout the year. In the Southern Division, the Tata Company's Electric Works, forest cuttings and the Salt Manufacturing industry provided ample work in the Kolaba District. In the Dharwar District, house building operations and the construction of the new Railway Water Works at Devargudihal in the Kalghatgi Taluka were special sources of employment. In the rest of the Division, the supply was equal to the demand except during the cotton season at Bail-Hongal in the Belgaum District where Gins and Presses offered employment to all labourers in search of work.

An abundant supply of unskilled labour was available in the Thar and Parkar District in Sind on account of a scarcity of fodder in the desert. In the Nawabshah District wages rose by 4 annas a day at Sakrand on account of the opening of the Sakrand Farm which required a large amount of labour. The following table shows the daily average wages of unskilled labourers in District headquarter towns (urban areas) and in

certain taluka towns, one in each district (rural areas) in the same manner as in the case of field labourers :—

Divisions	Daily average wages in 1913		1924		1925	
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Political Divisions—						
Northern Division ..	0 5 3	0 4 3	0 14 3	0 11 0	0 14 6	0 10 3
Central Division ..	0 5 9	0 4 6	0 9 9	0 8 0	0 10 0	0 8 3
Southern Division ..	0 5 9	0 4 9	0 10 6	0 7 6	0 11 6	0 8 3
Economic Circles—						
Gujarat Circle ..	0 5 3	0 4 0	0 13 9	0 11 0	0 14 3	0 10 3
Deccan Circle ..	0 5 9	0 4 6	0 9 9	0 7 6	0 10 6	0 7 9
Konkan Circle ..	0 6 3	0 5 3	0 13 0	0 9 9	0 12 9	0 10 0
Presidency Proper ..	0 5 9	0 4 6	0 11 3	0 8 9	0 11 9	0 8 9
Sind	0 8 0	0 7 3	0 15 6	0 12 0	1 1 0	0 12 3
Whole Presidency ..	0 6 3	0 5 3	0 12 3	0 9 6	0 13 0	0 9 6

Skilled Labour.—Except in the Northern Division, where the daily average rates of wages of skilled labourers remained stationary, all the other Divisions of the Bombay Presidency showed increases as compared with the previous year. In the Poona District the demand for carpenters, blacksmiths and masons was brisk throughout the year owing to the development of Bhamburda and Yeravda and the construction of many Government buildings which were in process of erection during the year. Skilled labour earned as much as Rs. 3 per day in Mahableshwar. The electrification schemes of the G. I. P. and the B. B. & C. I. Railways were responsible for attracting all workers of this class especially in connexion with the wholesale remodelling of all the stations on the local lines and the laying on of overhead wiring. Barrage operations were again responsible for a still further increase in the rates in most districts in Sind. The following table shows the daily average wages

of skilled labourers in the same way as in the two preceding tables :—

Divisions	Daily average wages in 1913		1924		1925	
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Political Divisions—						
Northern Division ..	0 13 9	0 11 9	2 2 6	2 0 3	2 2 3	2 0 0
Central Division ..	0 13 0	0 10 6	1 9 6	1 0 9	1 10 0	1 4 0
Southern Division ..	0 10 9	0 9 9	1 3 6	0 15 6	1 9 6	1 1 9
Economic Circles—						
Gujarat Circle	0 13 6	0 11 9	2 1 3	2 0 3	2 0 9	1 15 3
Deccan Circle ..	0 11 9	0 10 0	1 6 6	0 15 3	1 9 6	1 2 0
Konkan Circle ..	0 13 9	0 11 3	1 14 6	1 9 6	2 0 9	1 13 6
Presidency Proper ..	0 12 6	0 10 9	1 10 6	1 5 3	1 12 3	1 7 0
Sind	1 4 6	1 2 0	2 8 6	1 13 9	2 10 6	2 1 0
Whole Presidency ..	0 13 9	0 11 9	1 12 9	1 6 6	1 14 9	1 8 9

FORESTS

For purposes of administration the Presidency has been divided into four Forest Circles, which are in charge of Conservators. The Chief Conservator is at the head of the Forest Department.

Forest administration is a branch of the general administration and the central authority in forest matters is the Commissioner of a Division, subject to the general orders of Government. The Chief Conservator is the local head of the Forest Department and the technical adviser of Government in forest matters. Forest Officers in charge of Circles have full powers in all professional operations of technical forestry ; but in all other matters, such as those of rights and privileges of the people in forests, local supply of grass, grazing and fodder and generally as regards the relation of the department with the people, control vests in the local revenue officers and the forest officers are subordinate to them for these purposes. A Working Plans Division is maintained in each Circle and the duties of the working plans divisional officers are to ascertain the capabilities of the forests in the production of timber and other forest produce and to prepare scientific schemes for the exploitation of the forests so that they may be worked for the greatest benefit both of the

State and the people. The work in connection with the preparation of working plans is generally well advanced, but revision of plans is carried on continuously. The classification of forests into forest proper, fuel and fodder, reserves and pastures has been completed in all Circles and the areas classed as pastures have been transferred to the Revenue Department for management.

The area under "Forests" in this Presidency is 15,000 square miles.

The year was a successful one financially and good progress was made with works of development and improvement. The proposals for the systematic exploitation of malki teak in Thana by the Forest Department received the sanction of Government, and an increase in revenue is to be expected from this source in future years.

The marked feature of the year was that the gross revenue rose by Rs. 1½ lakhs over the figure of the previous year and by Rs. 5 lakhs over the average of the preceding five years, while the surplus was more than last year by Rs. 86,000 and more than the average of the previous quinquennium by Rs 6½ lakhs. Notwithstanding the fact that capital expenditure on communications and buildings have greatly risen, the financial results of the year showed a great improvement over those of any previous year except the one "boom" war year of 1918-19.

Communications.—Construction work was in progress on 86 miles of new roads and repairs were carried out on 880 miles of old roads. The total expenditure under this head was Rs. 2·42 lakhs. "More export roads are urgently needed," says the Chief Conservator of Forests in his Annual Report, "to tap the valuable teak forests of the Dangs and Peint, where much good timber is locked up and going to waste for want of export facilities. The gross revenue of Surat Division has risen from one to six lakhs in 15 years, and this increase is due mainly to road construction."

In the year under report there was an increase of nearly 1,400 in the total number of offences against the Forest Laws. Of the 18,300 offences reported over 15,000 cases were compounded, and compensation amounting to Rs. 1·40 lakhs was recovered in 14,612 cases. Only 390 cases were decided in the courts and of these 352 or 90 per cent. resulted in convictions. On the whole, the year 1925-26 was a bad year for fire protection owing to the early cessation of the rains and the absence of hot weather thunderstorms, and in some places to the presence of large quantities of dead bamboo clumps. The system of communal punishments for bad protection and rewards for good protection

is undoubtedly of great help in securing the support of the people, but the fact remains that the act of one ill-disposed individual is enough to undo the work of the rest of the community.

Protection from Cattle.—The forest areas open and closed to grazing were as follows :—

	Sq. miles.	Per cent.
Closed to all animals for the whole year	2,179	14·52
Closed to all animals for part of the year	301	2·01
Open to all animals except browsers for the whole year..	9,065	60·43
Open to all animals for the whole year	3,457	23·04
	15,002	

The area open to grazing was nearly everywhere sufficient, and closure is relaxed in cases of hardship. Extensive experiments are being carried out in the Central Circle with a system of partial closure, under which greater facilities will be available to the people. Extensive closed areas were thrown open to grazing in the hot weather owing to the late arrival of the rains.

Nearly 2½ million cattle were admitted to grazing in the forest lands and about 136,000 animals were impounded for unauthorised grazing in open and closed forest.

The grazing fees collected during the year were Rs. 5,11,000 as compared with Rs. 5,64,000 last year, the value at full rates being Rs. 21 lakhs.

Sylviculture.—Throughout the Presidency proper the common methods of regeneration are (*i*) Coppice, (*ii*) tending of natural seedlings, (*iii*) sowing and planting. On the whole coppice gives good results in the smaller class forests and teak shoots may reach a height of 10 ft. or more in their first year. Natural seedlings come up in great numbers in the open type of forests as a result of fire protection, and it is especially noticeable that in the last 25 years fine crops of teak poles have established themselves in the forests of Surat and West Khandesh Divisions as a result of fire protection. In the heavier high forests of the Southern Circle it has been found necessary to resort to artificial regeneration following on clear-cutting, and it has in fact been found desirable in almost every type of forest throughout the Presidency to supplement natural by artificial regeneration. Experiments have been made with various methods of sowing and planting of teak, and the most favoured method is now the

sowing of specially prepared teak seed on burnt patches which has proved successful in all regions except those of very precarious rainfall, which are hardly suited for the growth of teak at all.

Exploitation.—During the year 4,896,000 cubic feet of timber and fuel were extracted departmentally together with sandalwood worth Rs. 85,307 and minor produce, grass, etc., to the value of Rs. 34,392.

The actual outturn of major and minor produce removed by consumers and purchasers during the year 1925-26 was :—

Major Produce

	Rs.
(1) Timber—3,941,000 cubic feet, valued at	27,12,000
(2) Fuel—32, 685,000 cubic feet, valued at	6,98,000

Minor Produce

(3) Bamboos—valued at	1,46,000
(4) Grass and Grazing—valued at ..	8,29,000
(5) Other minor produce—valued at ..	2,32,000
making a total for minor produce of ..	12,07,000

The Outturn from all sources of forest produce during 1925-26 was :—

	Cubic feet.
Timber	5,999,000
Fuel	45,000,000

The total expenditure on the management of State Forests was Rs. 17,30,000 against Rs. 16,67,000 in the previous year. The increase was due to more expenditure on roads and buildings in the Northern and Southern Circles.

Famine Grass Operations.—Nearly 86 lakhs lbs. of grass were baled and stored at Godhra, Dohad and Palghar under the Famine Fodder Schemes financed from famine funds, bringing the amount stored at these three Depôts up to 313 lakhs lbs. After the end of the year a strong demand for grass sprang up and most of the grass was sold. The famine grass stores in West Khandesh amounting to 172 lakhs, were also sold off after the end of the year.

The Committee appointed in Government Resolution, No. L.C.—1374, dated 26th January 1925 to enquire into forest grievances visited places in Poona, East Khandesh, West Khandesh, Thana, Kolaba, Nasik, Satara, Panch Mahals, Kanara and Belgaum Districts, from which petitions of grievances had been received. The proceedings of the Committee were as ordered

by Government informal throughout. All who wished to put their views before the Committee were allowed to do so and full consideration was given not only to the written petitions received but to all points brought up during the meetings which took place in various offices and buildings and very often in the forest itself. Large numbers of petitions of grievances were brought forward, some of them common to nearly all the Districts of the Presidency, some peculiar to a few Districts only, and some pertaining to individual villages or even individuals. All of these were investigated, as many as possible on the spot and the rest either at Committee meetings or by members individually. The people of 11 out of 13 districts from which petitions were received were interviewed during the tour and matters were enquired into on the spot.

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The co-operative movement made steady progress in almost every branch in a year which was generally possible for its development apart from the low prices of the two important money crops, Cotton and Sugarcane. This circumstance affected the recovery of loans to some extent, more especially in the case of the Canal societies where the reduction of heavy arrears depends largely on the sale of *gur*. The total number of societies rose from 4,126 to 4,656, 590 new societies being registered and 60 cancelled. The figure of overdues was 14·2 per cent.

In the case of Agricultural Credit Societies the policy of improvement and consolidation rather than one of expansion by active propaganda has been maintained. Spontaneous growth is encouraged in richer districts and where the crops are more assured, while it is very carefully controlled in famine tracts and poorer areas. While Dharwar heads the list as before, there has been a striking increase during the year in East and West Khandesh and in Sind. Progress has been made towards securing more regular provision of finance by the introduction to a greater extent of the system of normal credit statements. This is reflected to some extent in the striking increase in the Working Capital. An improvement in supervision was secured by portioning out some of the worst societies amongst the honorary workers, and by the development of Supervising Unions, of which there are now 87 as compared with 73 in the former year.

The total number of Agricultural Credit Societies increased from 3,377 to 3,868, their members from 243,000 to 271,000

and their Working Capital showed the striking increase of 26 per cent. from 249 to 314 lakhs. The Bhil Societies in the Panch Mahals again showed distinct improvement. Out of the total tagavi grant of 3½ lakhs placed at the disposal of the Provincial Bank for land improvement, a sum of Rs. 2,09,570 was actually utilised.

Agricultural Non-Credit Societies increased from 223 to 253. As in the previous year chief interest centred in the Sale Societies of which there were 31 at the end of the year, and of these the Cotton Sale Societies commanded chief attention. The latter societies sold 62½ lakhs worth of cotton compared with 46 lakhs during the previous year. The most important event was the boycott of the Gadag Society by the local dalals, which was undoubtedly due to the increasing business of the Society, and still continues. Only one bidder attended the auction, but inspite of this the amount of cotton sold showed an increase. In order to secure the sympathy of the millowners and exporters of Bombay, and to find a way out of the boycott, a conference of representative buyers and exporters was convened there. It was decided that the Society should sell only the improved varieties by auction and only the cotton of the members, and that under these conditions it would receive the support of the Bombay trade. It has acted up to the conditions but so far no support has been received from Bombay. In Gujarat the Cotton Sale Societies progressed except in Jambusar Taluka of Broach where a District Honorary Organiser had to be prosecuted. The Society for the Sale of Gur did well as did the Shop of the Yellow Union in Satara District, which sells Agricultural produce in general and has its headquarters at Kolhapur. Other Sale Societies in the Presidency worth noticing were the Arecanut Sale Society at Kumta in Kanara and the Byadgi Chilly Sale Society in Dharwar. In Sind the Shop at Shikarpur and the Malir Society, which sells potatoes and vegetables, had a good year.

The number of Machinery and Implement Societies at the end of the year was 69. Of those which utilise machinery driven by power the Power Pump Society at Anklav in Kaira District did good work, and the Kareli Ginning Society in Broach District had a successful year. A new Ginning Society was started at Nandgaon in Nasik District. The number of manure societies was 17. They sold manure worth Rs. 55,000, of which the two societies at Manjri and Hadapsar sold Rs. 30,000 worth. The work of individual societies is small when compared with that done by the Provincial Bank, which sold manure of the

value of Rs. 8¼ lakhs in the Canal tracts. There were 18 Cattle Breeding Societies of which only those at Shidenur and Alur in Dharwar District deserve notice. As regards joint improvement the two Dam Societies at Mutta and Sanikatta in Kanara did well, and at Yelvigi in Dharwar District a newly formed society of Waddars has brought 160 acres of land under cultivation.

The development of co-operative activities in urban area by the Institution of People's Banks has received special attention in this Province. The policy is to have at least one such bank in every taluka headquarters. This aim is near realisation in parts of the Southern Division, although it must be admitted that the banks have reached very different stages of development in the different talukas.

The total of non-agricultural credit societies was 476 at the end of the year compared with 448 in the previous year, and of these 47 were urban banks with a working capital of over Rs. 50,000. Urban societies may be divided into four classes, (*i*) Those which serve the needs of the small artisans and traders, (*ii*) Societies of salary earners of Government offices, departments, Railway companies, mill-hands, etc., (*iii*) Big urban banks which cater for the needs of all classes and not only for the artisans and traders, (*iv*) Miscellaneous, such as urban thrift and educational societies and societies for depressed classes.

There has been considerable development in the working of the District Central Banks during the year. The number decreased by one from 20 to 19 as the Thana Bank, which did not function during the year, was amalgamated with the Bombay Provincial Bank. The total working capital increased from 141 to 178 lakhs. The expansion in the financing of primary societies by district banks is shown by the figures of loans which were Rs. 127 lakhs compared with Rs. 100, 75 and 48 lakhs in the three previous years. Several Banks increased their staff or improved their efficiency during the year, and this is demonstrated by a total increase of 33 per cent. in the expenses of management. Nevertheless improvement in this line is still one of the great needs of the Co-operative movement. Several of the District Banks opened branches at Taluka towns.

As regards Provincial Co-operative Bank the year was, as usual, one of sound progress and advance. Noticeable features were : a new issue of shares, the majority of which were taken up by societies ; greater representation given on the Board to Central Banks and primary societies ; increase in working capital by 33 per cent. ; expansion in fluid resources ; the

BIJAPUR COTTON SALE SOCIETY—VIEW OF THE WEIGHING OPERATIONS OF CULTIVATORS' *KAPAS* IN THE SOCIETY'S COMPOUND

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opening of two new branches at Kalol in Panch Mahals and Shirpur in West Khandesh; and in conjunction with the Provincial Bank of Bihar and Orissa the convention of an All-India Provincial Banks' Conference at Bombay. The Bank set a noticeable example by reducing its rate of interest on deposits and thus being able to reduce the rate of interest to societies from 7½ to 7 per cent. The reduction of rates of interest in Co-operative Banks in order to conform to the general reduction in the market is a matter which those responsible for the management will have to consider. The Bank sold *gul* to the value of 13¼ lakhs, manure to the value of 7 lakhs, and 439 implements in its various Shops. It also distributed cotton and groundnut seed to the value of Rs. 86,000.

The Consumers' Movement remained stationary, and the Producers' Movement showed no progress. The latter is affected by the fluctuations in the prices of raw material and the slackness in demand. The Weavers' Movement too remained more or less stationary. The number of societies was reduced from 69 to 60, but on the other hand some of the societies in the Southern Division showed some development as did the Karkamb Society and the Sholapur Urban Society in the Central Division.

The number of Housing Societies increased by 1 to 44, of which 22 are in Bombay City. The same difficulties due to slump in trade and decreased rents which were noticed during the previous year continued to operate in the case of the societies in Bombay City. Good progress was made during the year in Karachi where the Parsi Society has constructed several tenements, and four other societies are about to begin work. In Dharwar the Saraswat Society has completed 38 out of 46 buildings and the Raddi Society its full amount of 12 buildings. In Ahmedabad after considerable efforts the Brahma Kshatriya Society was registered, and with commendable promptitude acquired an area of 18 acres, collected capital of nearly a lakh, and obtained sanction for a Government loan of Rs. 3½ lakhs. It has begun to build and its example has resulted in the registration of a Parsi Building Society.

The two most important points in connection with the Bombay Central Co-operative Institute were its legal recognition in the new Act and a change in its constitution. By the latter it has been brought more in touch with similar organisations in other parts of the world, and its management has become more democratic. Provision has been made for District branches, which have been opened everywhere except in parts of Sind.

More than 30 conferences were organised under the auspices of the Institute during the year, and 18 regular training classes, while 48 short classes for Managing Committee members were held. This year the Provincial Conference was held in Dharwar, which is the first occasion on which it has been held outside Bombay or Poona. Special mention may be made of the All-India Conference of Registrars held at Bombay during the year.

HORTICULTURE

PUBLIC GARDENS

Bombay Municipal Gardens.—Ten public gardens were maintained by the Municipality during the year. The number of visitors to the Victoria Gardens was 1,888,000 against 2,150,000 in the previous year. In addition to 140 band performances and 8 performances of Indian music at the different band-stands 13 wireless concerts were given alternately at the Sir Phirozsha Mehta Gardens and the Victoria Gardens.

Empress and Bund Gardens, Poona.—These gardens are maintained by the Agri-Horticultural Society of Western India and are of a highly ornamental character.

In spite of the adverse character of the season the flower garden was kept gay throughout the year. The annuals, in both main seasons though late in coming to flower gave a good show. In addition there were perennial flowering plants in great variety.

Vegetables in considerable variety were cultivated. The income from the sale of fruits credited was half of that in the preceding year. The mango crop fetched a comparatively small price. The income realised from the sale of wedding and presentation bouquets, decorated baskets, wreaths, crosses and cut flowers was Rs. 5,116. The receipts of the Empress Gardens amounted to about Rs. 28,200 and the expenditure to Rs. 27,700. The income includes Rs. 8,200 from the sale of plants, Rs. 5,100 from flowers, Rs. 4,700 from seeds, Rs. 1,250 from fruits and Rs. 420 from vegetables.

Bund Gardens.—The Bund Gardens are display gardens and a place of resort for residents of the city. The cost of maintaining it was Rs. 2,846 which was not covered by the sale proceeds, the deficit being met by the Empress Gardens.

CHAPTER VI

TRADE AND COMMERCE

INDUSTRIES

NORTHERN DIVISION.—In Ahmedabad twelve factories were added to the existing number (172) and eight were struck off the register, leaving 176 at the close of the year. The abolition of the Cotton Excise duty gave some relief to the industry, but the depression noticed in the previous year still continued.

The two textile mills at Nadiad worked well during the year and so did the gins and presses and the rice and flour mills.

The lime and brick industries at Dohad in the Panch Mahals are expanding owing to the construction of the B. B. & C. I. Railway Workshop there. The Electricity Company at Godhra has now begun to supply energy to the public for all the 24 hours of the day, a great convenience to private and industrial consumers.

In Broach cotton is the chief product and constitutes the only important trade of the district. On account of the uneven distribution of the rainfall the outturn of cotton was on an average about 8 annas. As the cotton season began rather early owing to the failure of the late rains, the ginning factories started early and finished their work almost two months in advance of their usual time. Four ginning factories, one pressing factory and three flour mills were started during the year and on account of keen competition the ginning and pressing charges were greatly reduced.

The river-borne trade at the ports of Broach and Kavi showed a decrease both in imports and exports.

In Surat the ginning factories worked fairly well. The local silk and embroidery business flourished as usual. The mango crop was very scanty and the trade in bricks was dull.

In Thana the general depression in trade continued during the year and affected to some extent various industries in the district. Rice which is the main product of the district is largely exported to Bombay, Gujarat, etc., the export from Bhiwandi Prant alone being estimated at Rs. 50 lakhs.

Central Division.—The cotton crop in the districts of East Khandesh and Ahmednagar was not so good as in 1924-25.

The price of cotton was slightly lower than in the previous year with the result that there was some depression in the trade. Two spinning and weaving mills at Amalner and one of those at Jalgaon were on the whole in a prosperous condition.

The cotton crop in the West Khandesh and Nasik districts was fairly good and the gins and presses there had sufficient work. They increased from 52 and 25 to 54 and 27, respectively, while the number of ginning factories in the Nasik District rose from 14 to 17. As regards the position of Dhulia as a centre of Industry, the Collector reports :—

" Dhulia City is, I fear, losing its importance as a centre of Industry. Cotton gins and presses are being put up in the district to save the long haul of unginned cotton and must decrease the trade of Dhulia. Economically, ginning and pressing on the spot is sounder than at a distance, but Dhulia has still the advantage of having an open cotton market where market prices can be obtained. The more prosperous cultivators often find it pays them to cart their cotton 40 or 50 miles to Dhulia rather than sell it at, *e.g.*, Dondaicha where they allege the cotton buyers give prices below market sales and even then fail to pay the agreed prices on various excuses. Co-operative cotton dealing and an improvement in commercial morality seem called for."

As regards the condition of the cotton industry in Sholapur, the Collector remarks :—

" The Textile Industry as a whole has been undergoing a period of unusual depression since 1922 and matters still show no sign of improvement. The local mills, however, despite an uncertain and irregular cotton market and a steady and continuous fall in the rates obtainable for yarn and cloth, have been able to show fair profits which compare very favourably indeed with the results obtained in other centres.

" Trade conditions have been exceptionally bad on account of fall in prices all over the country. Erection of four spinning and weaving mills at Barsi is under contemplation out of which two are under construction."

The Collector of Poona remarks as below on the extension of cotton cultivation in the Bhimthadi Taluka :—

" Since last year cotton cultivation has attracted the attention of the Bagaitdars in Bhimthadi Taluka as the crop is readily marketable and fairly good prices are obtainable. The area under cotton in the vicinity of Baramati has increased to such an extent (from 2,500 acres to 4,000 acres) that the establishment of a ginning factory there is under consideration."

During the season which commenced on 1st January 1926 and ended in May 1926, 2,002 tons of sugar and 1,206 tons of molasses were produced at the Belapur Sugar Company's factory as against 2,008 tons of sugar and 1,232 tons of molasses in the previous year. The cane area for the next season stands at 1,750 acres in addition to 100 acres under Adsali cane. The area in 1925-26 was 1,450 acres only.

In Bhimthadi Taluka the area under sugarcane was 7,400 acres as against 5,800 of the previous year. The increase was due to the fairly good prices realised during the year 1924-25, but unfortunately during the year under review the prices fell as there was little demand for jaggery owing to large imports of sugar which were sold at fairly low rates. The Nira Valley sugar factory at Baramati remained closed during the year. In the Satara District sugarcane is now extensively grown on the Nira Canal and a large quantity of jaggery was exported by the merchants at Lonand on the S. M. Railway, a rising commercial centre, owing to its proximity to the area which is now being opened up by irrigation.

There was no improvement in the condition of trade and industries in the Poona City owing to the tightness of the money market. The cloth and food-grain market was dull practically throughout the year, though brass, silk thread and other textile factories, printing presses and flour mills were pretty busy throughout the year. The Electric Supply Company had demands for a larger supply of power than it could meet. It has extended its cables now to Bhamburda where development is brisk.

Nasik and Satara are mainly agricultural districts. The trade in grain in the Nasik District is mostly confined to Ghoti (Igatpuri), Bhagur (Nasik) and Lasalgaon (Niphad Taluka). Trade was normal at these centres during the year. The agricultural prosperity of the Satara District which began in the previous year received a setback in the year under report owing to the somewhat adverse nature of the monsoon. In spite of this the agricultural outturn of the district, excepting the eastern talukas, was, on the whole, good. Though profits were less than the previous year, trade, especially the export trade in groundnut, turmeric, etc., did not suffer to any material extent.

The Metal Factory and the Carpentry Department of the American Mission of Ahmednagar were kept going during the year, but owing to the general trade depression they were unable to make both ends meet. The Automobile and the Electrical Departments have expanded a little. Many of the employees are apprentices and it seems that this branch of technical

education is becoming popular. The trade in timber in Nawapur, Taloda and Nandurbar was dull during the year. The poor crops in the Tapti Valley prevented the well-to-do Gujars from building big houses.

The Tannery at Wanowri, the Glass Factory at Talegaon Dabhade, the Ravivarma Press at Karla in the Poona District and the Tikekar Textile Factory and metal works at Tikekarwadi near Sholapur made good progress.

Southern Division.—The cotton ginning and pressing factories in Belgaum did comparatively little work as the yield of cotton was below normal. The same cause affected the cotton trade in Bijapur. In Dharwar though much business was done by the cotton merchants, profits were small owing to depression in trade. Two new ginning factories were started in Dharwar (one in Ranebennur Taluka and one in Bankapur Taluka).

The trade in food-stuffs—jowari and wheat—in Bijapur suffered, the yield being below normal. The rice trade in Kolaba was prosperous. In Belgaum the tobacco trade was dull, as was the timber market in Kanara, but the betelnut, cardamom and pepper trade of the latter district was as brisk as usual. The fishing industry in the coast districts was in a flourishing condition.

Hand spinning was at a standstill everywhere. Airani "kamblis" in Dharwar, saris of Ilkal and khans of Guledgud in Bijapur are finding a good market. The cloth manufactured at the Criminal Tribes Settlement in Bijapur was also in demand although its quality is not very superior. The hand-weaving industry in Belgaum shared the general depression. The Gokak Falls Mills did as well as usual throughout the year.

The Tile Factories at Mora (Uran in Kolaba) and Manaki (Kanara) prospered : but Mr. Moray's tile factory in Ratnagiri was temporarily closed. There was a slump in the bangle industry in Belgaum. Building stone from Badami and lime-stone from Bagalkot in Bijapur were much in demand. The Criminal Tribes Settlement Department has acquired a small plot in Sellikeri in Bagalkot Taluka for quarrying slates departmentally. Copper and brass industries at Alibag and Roha in Kolaba and at Hubli in Dharwar had a good year. The cart wheel industry at Panvel did well. The six aluminium factories at Viziadrug in Ratnagiri continued to do good work.

The Tata Company's Power Houses at Bhivapuri (taluka Karjat) and Khopoli (Khalapur Petha) continued to supply electrical energy to mills in Bombay. A third Power House at Patnus (taluka Mangaon) is under construction. Licenses

under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, have been given for Gadag and Hubli and proposals for electrification of the towns of Dharwar, Bijapur and Belgaum are under the consideration of Government.

The public motor services had a good year and are increasing.

Bombay Suburban Division.—There was hardly any change from the previous year as far as the general depression in trade and industry was concerned. No new industry was started in the district during the year.

The principal trades and industries in the division were :—

(*a*) Salt manufacture in the villages of Trombay, Mahul, Bhandup, Ghatkopar and Goregaon.

(*b*) The fishing trade at Bandra, Danda, Versowa and Trombay.

(*c*) The palm and brab trees in the South Salsette taluka are a good source of income to Government, there being a considerable demand for toddy in this taluka.

(*d*) There are two textile mills at Kurla and one at Ghatkopar and a large plant and factory for the manufacture of steel pipes at Mulund.

(*e*) There are six match factories, one each at Ghatkopar, Kurla, Bandivli, Vile Parle, Dahisar and Ambernath.

(*f*) There is a bonemeal and carbon products factory at Vikhroli and a paint factory at Mulund, and tanneries at Kurla and Chembur.

(*g*) There are dyeing factories at Kurla, Chembur, Vikhroli, Hariali and Khar and cigarette factories in Bandra and Andheri.

(*h*) There is a litho-printing press in Ghatkopar, brass and aluminium and silver factories at Vile Parle.

(*i*) There are glass factories at Kurla and Chembur and a Nawar Tape Factory at Ghatkopar. But these are still in their infancy.

(*j*) Stone quarrying has been carried out in the villages of Malavni, Gorai, Dharoli, Marol and Akurli. The Malavni quarries are famous for their superior building stone and the Akurli quarries supply good filling in material and are utilised on a large scale for the Back Bay Reclamation.

(*k*) There are brick kilns of modern type at Kurla and Marol.

(*l*) Lime is manufactured in large quantities in the villages of Kurla, Marwa, Gorai and Malavni.

(*m*) There are four factories in the Ambernath taluka near the station, leather-cloth and the woollen factories, a match factory and the chemical factory. Of all these concerns the

match factory is doing brisk work on account of the present import duties giving an impetus to indigenous industry. No new concerns were started during the year owing to the slump in the market and curtailment of development activities.

Sind.—There was no appreciable change in the local industries and manufactures except that a considerable number of new rice husking factories were established in the Larkana district which produces the best rice in the province. Sugar-cane-pressing industries are reported to be in a prosperous condition. The wheat-grinding and oil-pressing factories did fairly well. The cotton ginning factories had sufficient work.

The local cloth weaving industry as usual struggled along with difficulty in face of the competition of the imported commodity. The silk spinning and weaving factory at Larkana continued to work at a loss and is expected to be soon closed down. A silk factory at Rohri is about to close for the same reason though its products were quite good. The coarse wollen cloth industry suffered from a reduction in the number of sheep owing to the scarcity of fodder in the Desert tract of the Thar Parkar district.

The dyeing and lacquer industries maintained but did not improve their position. The leather tannery at Pano Akil in the Sukkur district was at a standstill for the first nine months of the year on account of dissensions between the partners and worked for the last three months only on a small scale.

Other minor industries such as those connected with earthen-ware, pan grass, metal work and soap continued on their usual modest lines.

The Co-operative movement is making rapid headway in the province. Owing to the development of Co-operative credit societies and the creation of additional Co-operative banks both zamindars and cultivators have improved facilities for obtaining advances.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES

In accordance with the wishes of the Legislative Council the Government of Bombay were pleased to direct on 14th July 1925 that the Department of Industries should be re-organised under an Indian Director assisted later on, if necessary, by a Deputy Director. The activities of the re-organised Department of Industries were defined as follows :—

(1) Supply of commercial intelligence to private enterprises.
(2) Professional or technical advice and assistance to minor industries.
(3) Demonstration in cottage industries, specially in weaving.
(4) Technical Education.

(5) Experimental and demonstration work in Rosha oil and fish oil and manufacture of magnesium chloride.

(6) Fisheries (including the cultivation of oysters).

A number of industrial factories were visited by the Director of Industries to give technical advice and help and to discuss various problems pertaining to industrial organisation, defects in power plant and machinery, markets for raw material and finished products, reduction in cost of working charges, labour saving appliances and other similar engineering, technical and industrial subjects.

Besides these visits to factories technical advice was given by correspondence to various industrialists inquiring from all parts of the Presidency and to a large number of visitors.

Development of Industries.—The unusual trade depression continued throughout the year and although the prices of machinery were very low no new large industrial concerns seem to have been projected in this Presidency during the year, except some small factories such as cotton ginning factories, oil mills, etc.

Cotton ginning and pressing factories are now rapidly increasing in Sind as well as in the Punjab, the cotton from which is now transported to Karachi harbour to be shipped to other ports and foreign countries.

Another good field for development at Karachi is fishery. The Makran Coast in Sind is said to be well stocked with fish and offers an opportunity for developing fishery on the most modern lines.

Match Factories.—Owing to the impetus given by the import duty on matches as well as on the undipped splints and veneers for match boxes which remained the same during the year, all the match factories in the Presidency continued working throughout the year. Two new match factories, both owned and managed by Japanese, were opened in the suburbs of Bombay, one called the Asada Match Factory at Kurla and the other the Borivli Match Factory at Borivli. There are now 15 match factories in this Presidency giving employment to nearly 5,000 hands daily. The approximate total output of all these factories is estimated at about 40 lakhs gross boxes annually. Except three or four old factories which use indigenous wood from the forests of this Presidency the others import and use match wood logs from Sweden, Japan, Russia, etc.

A new cottage industry has sprung up in the suburbs of Bombay in making empty match boxes from veneers supplied by the match factories now established in Santa Cruz, Andheri,

Kurla, Ghatkopar, etc., giving employment to a large number of people who like to work in their own cottages.

Several factories have lately been started in Bombay for manufacturing paper boxes for packing various articles of indigenous manufacture such as hosiery, boots and shoes, bottles for patent medicine, toilet soaps, etc.

Technical education.—Under this heading the grar of technical scholarships in chemistry and electrical engineering as well as of the State Technical Scholarships is kept under the control of this Department. The scholarships granted during the year consisted of two special scholarships in electrical engineering tenable abroad and three new scholarships in chemistry two of which were tenable at the Royal Institute of Science, Bombay, and one was tenable at the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore. Besides these one new scholarship in electrical engineering tenable at the Institute of Science at Bangalore was also granted, and scholarships of three old scholars in chemistry and one for electrical engineering were extended for the second year. In all eight scholars were maintained at these two institutions by the Government of Bombay during the year.

Cottage Industries.—In the absence of a complete industrial survey of this Presidency it is not known which cottage industries are carried on here, and what is their present condition. The low standard of living in India is a powerful factor in the rivalry with modern industrialism. There are so many different kinds of cottage crafts carried on in this Presidency that it is very difficult to suggest measures as regards state help that may be found suitable for all of them. Some of the cottage workers are experts in their crafts and any attempt to improve them has to be done very judiciously and cautiously if attempted at all.

The Department of Industries continued to help and advance the Hand Weaving industry which is the premier cottage industry of this Presidency by means of weaving schools and demonstrations. The production of handwoven cloth increased by 40 per cent. over what it was about 25 years ago, and the percentage of handwoven cotton cloth to the total consumption of cotton cloth in this country is now about 29 per cent. compared with 27 per cent. twenty-five years ago.

The expenditure on the Department during the financial year amounted to Rs. 67,500.

THE FACTORIES ACT

The Annual Factory Report of the Bombay Presidency for 1925 indicates that the measures for improving the conditions

under which operatives work are being steadily enforced. There are now 1,460 factories in the Presidency (one-fourth the total number of all Factories in India), a net increase of 115 during the year. The increase has been due chiefly to the registration of small concerns employing approximately 20 persons in each. The number of operatives employed in all industries rose from 354,853 in the previous year to 370,460. This figure again roughly represents one-fourth the factory population of India. Wages have remained fairly steady.

The number of women in factories has increased from 72,679 in 1924 to 77,624 in 1925, while children have decreased from 9,779 in 1924 to 8,460 in the year under report. The total number of women employed is thus steadily increasing with the total number of persons employed, the percentage of women in 1924 being 20·5 per cent. and in 1925, 21 per cent. approximately. While a decrease of 13·6 per cent. occurred in the number of children employed particularly in Bombay City, the same cannot be said of children presenting themselves for certification. The percentage of those presenting themselves who received half time certificates was 10·6 in Bombay and 12·6 in Ahmedabad, those rejected for being already certified being 2·9 per cent. in Bombay and 52·6 in Ahmedabad.

The evasion of the law regarding the employment of children in two factories the same day still continues despite official efforts to stop it. The certifying Surgeon at Ahmedabad states that progress towards elimination of double certification depends on the better co-operation of the employers, but the recording of thumb impressions and identification marks has reduced the number of evasions. The 'Sathi' system is still prevalent in Ahmedabad. Under this system the children are brought in from the villages to work in the mills under an agreement whereby children are maintained by others who take in return the wages earned by the children. It has been alleged that the system has been abused and that such children are made to work in two mills, but official inquiry shows that the system is not widely extent. The certification system itself has reduced the number of children employees. A test inquiry from 10 per cent. of the children employed in Ahmedabad revealed the following result—64 per cent. of the children examined lived with parents, 32 per cent. with relations and 4 per cent. with others. Of the 96 per cent. living with parents and relations about one-third worked in two mills.

Education.—The introduction of compulsory education in large towns is expected further to narrow down the scope of

double employment of children as also the legislation which Government have in hand for penalising parents or guardians who are responsible for such employment.

A considerable amount of attention was paid to the match factories in the Bombay and Thana districts. These concerns rely on the employment of a considerable proportion of women and children. One factory manager was fined Rs. 1,000 for the irregular employment of children, while a second, whose time table for the employment of children appeared to have been made out more in accordance with the Railway train service than with manufacturing needs, was suspected of keeping a close watch on the Inspector's movements. A joint visit by two of the staff from an unsuspected point of approach confirmed suspicions and a fine of Rs. 700 was imposed in the resulting prosecutions. A third match factory was prosecuted and fined Rs. 450 for the night employment of women.

More attention was given to seasonal factories in the mofussil and successful prosecutions were instituted in a number of areas as a result of unexpected inspections by the staff.

The full-time staff instituted 146 cases against 24 factories for the illegal employment of women and children.

There was a material increase in the number of accidents which have risen from 922 in 1917 and 2,606 in 1924 to 3,115 in 1925, *i.e.* from ·31 per hundred in 1917 and ·74 in 1924 to ·84 in 1925. Serious accidents numbered 599 in 1925 as against 170 in the previous year and 75 in 1917. The abnormal rise in the serious accidents is ascribed to the new method of classification under which accidents involving absence from work for 21 days or more are treated as serious. In many instances operatives make a slight injury the reason for journey to their homes in the country and in such cases the accidents are usually classed as serious owing to the failure of the injured persons to return to duty as soon as they are able to work. The number of fatal accidents fell from 82 in 1924 to 50 in the year under report.

Sanitation.—The report describes the measures taken to improve sanitation in factories. During the last few years a considerable improvement in this direction has been made in mills in Ahmedabad. In Bombay a few mills have added arrangements whereby a regular disinfection of the latrines is effected, whilst in Ahmednagar several of the old dilapidated latrines have been rebuilt on more modern lines. In other mofussil areas advance has been made, but in a number of instances it is not only difficult to find the necessary labour for cleaning

purposes, but also to ensure that latrines, when provided, are used.

Improved ventilation has taken place in several factories and the use of modern ventilating and humidification plant is gradually being extended in Sholapur.

THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

There were 237 applications for disposal during 1925 of which 45 related to fatal accidents, 66 to permanent disablements, 9 to temporary disablements, and 108 were for distribution of compensation deposited with the Commissioner. During the year under report over Rs. 1,09,000 were deposited with the Commissioner, of which Rs. 93,000 represented the amount of compensation to be paid to dependents of workmen whose injuries resulted fatally and Rs. 16,000 represented the amount of compensation deposited in respect of non-fatal accidents. A sum of nearly Rs. 95,000 was paid out to various claimants, leaving a balance in the hands of the Commissioner of over Rs. 20,500 at the end of the year.

The returns submitted by 155 employers indicate that 195,631 adults and 3,347 minors were employed in factories, 2,458 adults were employed in mines, 4,877 adults and 3 minors were employed in Tramways, 8,319 adults in the Port Trust, 21,098 adults and 19 minors in all other concerns. The total number of accidents was 2,300, of which 30 were fatal; 82 resulted in permanent disablement and 2,188 in temporary disablement.

The Commissioner points out that in two cases his order for payment of compensation was of no avail whatever to the unfortunate applicants because soon after the notice of hearing of the application was served on the employers, they took steps to file their schedule in the Insolvency Court.

During the year under report 289 persons were awarded compensation of whom 284 were adults and 5 minors. Out of the adults 118 were awarded compensation in respect of fatal accidents and the remaining for disablement either permanent or temporary. Of the five cases relating to minors one was for fatal accident and the remaining four for permanent disablement.

BOMBAY BOILER INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

The number of boilers on the register at the end of the year 1925-26 was 5,499, an increase of 152. Out of which 2,692 boilers were inspected and certified by the Boiler Inspection Department. Since the introduction of the Indian Boilers Act, under which a certificate for the use of a boiler is valid

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throughout British India increasing numbers of new boilers are offered for inspections and registration in the city of Bombay that are intended for use in other Provinces. Fourteen accidents to boilers and steam pipes, mainly of a minor character in which five persons were injured, one fatally, were investigated during the year. The receipts excluding those on account of Engineers Examination fees were Rs. 1,44,000 as against Rs. 1,47,000 for the preceding year.

SEA-BORNE TRADE

There was a general falling off in trade. The previous year's figures had shown an improvement of over 30 crores owing to the unprecedented imports of treasure. These fell in the year under review by 44 crores and account in the main for the decrease in Bombay's foreign trade. With bullion prices falling and with less attraction to speculate in bullion owing mainly to the return to a Gold Standard on the part of Great Britain, and the stability of Indian exchange, such a fall in the imports of treasure was natural. Bullion however by no means accounted for the whole decrease as a decline of 15 crores was also recorded under merchandise. A contributing factor was the amount of liquid cash locked up in bullion imported the previous year, but throughout the world trade again belied the hopes of recovery so frequently expressed. In addition, Bombay had troubles of her own in the depressed state of the Cotton Mill Industry and the strike of operatives in the mills. The abolition of the cotton Excise Duty in December was not sufficient to remove the depression and since the close of the year Government decided to appoint a Tariff Board to enquire into the conditions of the industry and suggest palliatives.

Apart from the heavy fall in imports of treasure, there was a serious contraction of merchandise imported to the tune of nearly 8½ crores. Lower prices accounted for this to some extent—and in the case of sugar they caused an increase in bulk to be shown as a decrease of nearly 1½ crore in value—but there is no denying the fact that the import trade of Bombay passed through a difficult year and the figures published in this report are a visible token of it. With the exception of oils, all the first ten principal articles of import showed decreases, cotton yarn, cotton manufactures and metals being the most prominent. Increases have to be sought for amongst articles which individually contribute under 2 per cent. to the total volume of imports.

On the export side, the decrease in Indian produce amounted to Rs. 3·86 crores, the decrease being shared by all the articles standing above the 2 per cent. line with the exception of grain, pulse and flour. The total effect, however, was not nearly so discouraging as in the case of imports, in that the decrease in the value of raw cotton—which accounted for 66 per cent. of the total exports—was entirely due to the lower range of prices, as the actual tonnage exported showed an improvement over the previous year. Further the price element alone accounts for the decrease recorded under seeds, for shipments actually increased in volume. Groundnuts expanded by 38,000 tons to 85,000 tons. The most marked decrease was that recorded under cotton manufactures, a natural reflection of the depressed state of the City's premier industry. The same reason accounted for the heavy fall in exports of cotton twist and yarn. The general fall in prices abroad adversely affected the export of raw wool which declined by over 25 per cent. in volume. Hides and skins regained some of the ground lost last year.

Changes in the direction of Bombay's trade contained one striking feature, *viz.*, that Japan now occupies first place to the detriment of the United Kingdom. Asia generally has improved her position by over 4 points, but Europe has fallen back a point and the British Empire has lost 3½.

The total trade of the Bombay Presidency was 312½ crores of rupees, 54¼ crores less than in the previous year. These figures were made up as follows :—

Foreign Trade (private)—
Imports—130 crores, a decrease of 52 crores 47 lakhs ;
Exports—105 crores 51 lakhs, a decrease of 7 crores 31 lakhs, a total foreign trade of 235 crores 51 lakhs, showing a loss of 59 crores 78 lakhs.

Coasting Trade (private)—
Imports—39 crores 92 lakhs, an increase of 5 crores 41 lakhs ;
Exports—33 crores 71 lakhs, a decrease of 1 crore 18 lakhs ;

giving a total coasting trade of 73 crores 64 lakhs, a net increase of 4 crores 22 lakhs.

Adding to this figure Government transactions amounting to 3 crores 51 lakhs the total sea-borne trade amounted to 312 crores 66 lakhs, a decrease of 54 crores 25 lakhs.

The gross revenue collected by the Bombay Custom House declined from Rs. 13 crores 14 lakhs to Rs. 12 crores 72 lakhs.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE PORTS OF BOMBAY AND KARACHI

The following table shows the value to the nearest lakh of the Foreign Import and Export trade of the ports of Bombay and Karachi grouped according to classes shown in Government accounts :—

Imports

	Lakhs	Increase or decrease in 1925-26 Lakhs
BOMBAY		
Food, drink and tobacco	946	— 77
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	1,070	— 99
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	5,709	— 674
Living animals	28	+ 6
Postal articles not specified	140	....
Total ..	7,893	— 844
KARACHI		
Food, drink and tobacco	539	— 207
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured .. .	174	+ 28
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured .	1,798	— 298
Postal articles not specified	48	+ 3
Total ..	2,559	— 474

Exports

BOMBAY		
Indian Produce and Manufacture		
Food, drink and tobacco	428	+ 30
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	8,006	— 185
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	916	— 235
Postal articles	123	+ 3
Total ..	9,473	— 387
KARACHI		
Indian Produce and Manufacture		
Food, drink and tobacco	573	— 1,846
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	2,887	+ 115
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	28	— 3
Living animals	½	+ ¼
Postal articles	5	....
Total ..	3,493½	— 1,733¾

BOMBAY

Foreign Merchandise	Lakhs	Increase or decrease in 1925-26 Lakhs
Food, drink and tobacco	80	— 31
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	342	— 96
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	320	— 103
Living animals	3	— 3
Postal articles	12	....
Total ..	757	— 233

KARACHI

Foreign Merchandise		
Food, drink and tobacco	22	— 12
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	68	— 29
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	96	— 14
Articles re-exported by post	....	....
Total ..	186	— 55

Total Export, Bombay—10,231 lakhs, a decrease of 620 lakhs.
Total Export, Karachi—3,680 lakhs, a decrease of 1,788 lakhs.

CHIEF PORT—BOMBAY

The foreign trade of the Presidency proper is almost entirely confined to its chief port, Bombay. The foreign trade (private) of this port declined by Rs. 59·8 crores to Rs. 235 crores but stood at a higher figure than Calcutta's by Rs. 7 crores. Exclusive of treasure the port's foreign trade declined by Rs. 14·64 crores or 7 per cent. to Rs. 181 crores. The foreign trade of Calcutta fell by Rs. 3·41 crores or 1 per cent. to Rs. 225 crores and that of Karachi by Rs. 22·63 crores or 27 per cent. to Rs. 62·39 crores. Imports of merchandise into Bombay decreased in value by 10 per cent. and those into Calcutta and Karachi by 9 per cent. and 15 per cent., respectively. Cotton manufactures, sugar, metals and ores, dyeing and tanning substances, cotton yarn, raw cotton and machinery and millwork chiefly accounted for the decrease at Bombay, cotton piecegoods, sugar, railway plant and rolling stock, cotton yarn and salt at Calcutta and cotton manufactures and sugar at Karachi. On the other hand there were noticeable improvements in silk manufactures, rubber, provisions, motor cars and motor cycles, spices, instruments and apparatus and tobacco in Bombay;

metals and ores, motor cars and motor cycles, spices and rubber showed appreciable increases at Calcutta and machinery and mill-work and kerosene oil at Karachi.

Exports of Indian produce also declined by Rs. 3·87 crores or 4 per cent. to Rs. 94·74 crores at Bombay and by Rs. 17·34 crores or 33 per cent. to Rs. 34·94 crores in Karachi, but advanced by Rs. 4·48 crores or 3 per cent. to Rs. 145 crores at Calcutta. Cotton manufactures and cotton yarn, raw wool, seeds and raw cotton largely accounted for the decrease at Bombay and grain, pulse and flour, seeds and raw wool at Karachi, while raw jute and its manufactures were chiefly responsible for the increase at Calcutta.

The total value of the private coasting trade excluding treasure advanced by Rs. 4·03 crores due entirely to a very marked improvement in the value of Indian produce imported ; exports declined, the substantial increase in value of foreign merchandise exported being more than counterbalanced by the heavy falling off in the exports of Indian produce. The principal articles under imports were rice, wheat, raw cotton and kerosene oil, all of which showed noticeable increases. Under exports, while Indian cotton piece-goods and cotton yarn recorded notable decreases, there were large increases in grain, pulse and flour under Indian produce and in cotton piece-goods, kerosene oil and metals and ores under foreign merchandise.

FOREIGN TRADE

IMPORTS

The details of trade in the most important articles are dealt with in the succeeding paragraphs.

Coal.—Imports of foreign coal again decreased by 56,000 tons to 233,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 23·98 lakhs to Rs. 53·54 lakhs in value, due to smaller arrivals from Natal and the United Kingdom. Shipments from Japan improved by 11,000 tons to 13,600 tons while supplies from Portuguese East Africa did not vary to a marked extent. The deficiency in foreign coal was made up by increased supplies of Bengal coal which advanced from 126,000 tons in 1923-24 and 177,000 tons in 1924-25 to 238,000 tons in the year under review, thus showing that the efforts of Bengal to recapture the Bombay market have been attended by some success.

Dyeing and Tanning Substances.—Due doubtless to the prevailing depression in the cotton mill industry imports under this head continued to decline and there was a further drop in the total value from Rs. 2·18 crores to Rs. 1·26 crore. This

drop was almost entirely accounted for by a marked decrease in the importation of synthetic dyes from Germany, her share in the total imports declining from 74 to 50 per cent. Alizarine and aniline dyes were the two principal articles under this head. Imports of alizarine dyes fell by 4¼ million lb. to 959,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 28·17 lakhs to Rs. 6·31 lakhs in value, due chiefly to smaller arrivals from Germany. There was a slight improvement in shipments from the United Kingdom, those from Belgium recording a decline. Imports of aniline dyes dropped by 2¼ million lb. to 6¾ million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 65·72 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore in value; Germany was the chief loser together with Belgium and the Netherlands, while supplies from the United States of America, Switzerland and the United Kingdom showed appreciable improvements.

Hardware.—This is a comprehensive heading covering a large variety of articles such as agricultural implements, other implements and tools, builders' hardware, domestic hardware, enamelled ironware, lamps, safes, stoves, gas mantles, etc. The value of imports decreased by Rs. 8·2 lakhs to Rs. 1·61 crore owing to smaller supplies from all important countries except Japan, her share showing a slight improvement. The decrease was mainly attributable to smaller receipts of metal lamps and parts, gas mantles, and other sorts of hardware. Germany continued to occupy first place with a share of 35 per cent. in the total imports, the United Kingdom's position remaining unchanged with 32·6 per cent.

Machinery and Millwork.—With the continued depression of the cotton mill industry, it was not likely that there should be any halt in the downward movement of this section of the import trade, which has been in progress for the last four years. Total imports fell from Rs. 5·45 crores to Rs. 5·15 crores; textile machinery fell by Rs. 26 lakhs and decreases were also recorded under metal working machinery, saw mill and wood working machinery, and other sorts of machinery. Prime-movers (other than electrical) and agricultural machinery improved materially and helped to lessen the gap between this year and the last. In total imports, the share of the United Kingdom, the largest supplier, again fell from 86·6 per cent. to 83·9 per cent. The share of Germany, on the other hand, increased from 4·1 per cent. to 5·5 per cent. while that of the United States of America receded from 6·1 to 5·7 per cent.

Matches.—After showing very considerable declines for three years imports of matches during 1925-26 improved slightly from 2,411,000 gross of boxes valued at Rs. 24·13 lakhs to 2,514,000

gross of boxes valued at Rs. 24·24 lakhs, owing chiefly to increased imports of safety matches from Sweden and Czechoslovakia and to larger arrivals of other matches from Sweden. Sweden continued the largest supplier of both kinds of matches and her share in the total imports advanced from 59 to 72 per cent., while that of Japan fell from 29 to 14 per cent. A noticeable feature of the trade was the contraction in match making materials, arrivals of which declined from Rs. 6·39 lakhs to Rs. 2·44 lakhs, the result doubtless of the imposition of the high specific duty : this finds corroboration in the increase of match wood imported for use in the manufacture of splints and boxes. 488,000 cubic feet valued at Rs. 8·17 lakhs were imported from Japan and Sweden against 295,000 cubic feet valued at Rs. 5 lakhs in the preceding year.

Metals and Ores.—The total drop in imports of 42,000 tons was almost entirely accounted for by decreased imports of iron and steel. These fell by 14 per cent. from 306,000 tons to 264,000 tons in quantity and by 18 per cent. in value, mainly as a result of a marked decrease in the arrivals of steel bars and of sheets, not galvanised or tinned. Appreciable improvements are noticeable only in beams, channels, etc., hoops and strips, sheets galvanised, and rails, chairs and fishplates. Rails, chairs and fishplates recorded during this year includes those imported by railways which formerly were shown under railway materials. The most marked feature of the trade during the past year was the recovery of the United Kingdom at the expense of Belgium. Imports from the latter country receded by 39,000 tons to 60,000 tons, while the United Kingdom figures show a drop of 9,000 tons only and stand at 139,000. Imports from Germany, United States of America and Luxemburg declined slightly while those from France advanced by 11,000 tons to 17,000 tons.

A comparison of imports of protected articles of iron and steel with the figures of the year 1923-24, the last full year before the imposition of the protective duties, shows that there has been a decrease under " steel bars, other than cast steel " from 70,000 tons to 40,000 a decrease under " beams, channels, pillars, girders and bridge work " from 28,000 tons to 20,000 and under " sheets and plates not galvanised or tinned " from 69,000 tons to 30,000. On the other hand there has been an increase under " sheets and plates galvanised, corrugated " from 65,000 tons to 77,000.

The substantial improvement recorded last year under brass was not maintained and the receipts fell by 26,000 cwt. to

280,000 cwt. in quantity and by Rs. 22·78 lakhs to Rs. 1·4 crore in value due entirely to a drop in the receipts of mixed or yellow metal for sheathing from Germany. Under copper imports of sheets from Germany fell by Rs. 20·88 lakhs to Rs. 51·13 lakhs, while arrivals from the United Kingdom, Belgium and France improved by Rs. 5·13 lakhs, Rs. 4·46 lakhs and Rs. 7·4 lakhs respectively. The increase in German silver was due to larger supplies from Italy. Imports of circles, the chief item under aluminium, declined, the increased receipts from the United Kingdom and France being nullified by the decreases in the arrivals from the United States of America and Germany.

Motor cars and motor cycles.—Imports of motor cars improved from 3,587 to 3,663 in number and from Rs. 89·28 lakhs to Rs. 96·24 lakhs in value. Arrivals from the United States of America improved from 579 to 690 cars, while Canadian cars fell from 1,907 to 1,465 in number due to decreased imports of Ford cars from that country. Imports from the United Kingdom continued to advance, the number totalling 975 against 744 in the preceding year and 424 in the year before that. The average price of the British car has again fallen, but this is probably more due to the lighter type of cars imported than to any marked reduction in manufacturing costs. Imports from Italy again advanced from 164 to 314 in number and from Rs. 7 lakhs to Rs. 11 lakhs in value. Arrivals from France also improved from 108 to 168 in number and from Rs. 2·71 lakhs to Rs. 5·77 lakhs in value. Imports of motor cycles increased from 313 to 330 owing to larger arrivals from the United Kingdom, the arrivals from America declining from 57 to 37 in number. Commercial vehicles expanded from 697 to 1,321 in number and from Rs. 12·94 lakhs to Rs. 22·16 lakhs in value as a result of increased imports from Canada and the United States of America—particularly the former.

Oils.—The decrease in imports of foreign mineral oils recorded in the table appended to the report on sea-borne trade is apparent rather than real, as imports of fuel oil by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ceased to be included in trade figures when that railway was taken over by Government from July last. Imports of fuel oil from Persia on this account amounted to 13 million gallons, so that an apparent decrease of 4½ million gallons becomes an actual increase of 8½ million and the total imports for the year constitute a record.

Imports of kerosene from foreign countries rose from 17 million gallons to 20 million gallons, owing chiefly to larger

supplies of bulk oil from the United States of America, arrivals in tins improving only slightly. Sumatra and British Borneo sent 1,134,000 and 884,000 gallons respectively against none in the preceding year while arrivals from Georgia were smaller than in the previous year. Imports from Burma were up by nearly 13½ million gallons. Prices were lower than in the previous year. The drop in imports of fuel oils from Persia was very considerably less than appears and amounted to 1¾ million gallons only. Imports from British Borneo were nearly 4 million gallons more, and Dutch Borneo sent over 2¼ million gallons against none in the previous year. Imports of foreign lubricating oils improved by 517,000 gallons to nearly 4 million gallons, due to increased supplies from the United States of America, but the value declined from Rs. 56·75 lakhs to Rs. 55·12 lakhs. Imports from Burma also improved from 765,000 gallons to 786,000 gallons, the value declining by Rs. 4·1 lakhs to Rs. 9·02 lakhs. There were practically no imports of foreign petrol and the whole supply came from Burma.

Postal Articles not specified.—The five specified articles, *viz.*, (1) gold and silver thread, (2) cinematograph films, (3) jewellery, (4) precious stones and (5) cigarettes are included under the relative heads in the general imports and excluded from this head. The total value of postal articles not specified was practically stationary at Rs. 1·4 crore, of which the value of the imports from the United Kingdom was Rs. 1·09 crore as against Rs. 1·18 crore in the preceding year. The number of parcels assessed at this port fell from 231,480 to 228,797 and that of letter packets found to contain dutiable articles, from 45,584 to 43,555. The increase in the weight limit from 11 to 20 lb. in respect of parcels from the United Kingdom may to a certain extent account for this diminution. The duty collected on parcels again declined from Rs. 21·18 lakhs to Rs. 20·51 lakhs, but the amount realised on letter packets improved from Rs. 9·08 lakhs to Rs. 10·8 lakhs owing to an increase in the value of diamonds imported.

Railway plant and rolling stock.—Imports on private account declined by Rs. 35·24 lakhs to Rs. 1·47 crore. This decrease was more than accounted for by the exclusion of G. I. P. Railway Stores from trade accounts since July 1925; stores to the value of Rs. 89·85 lakhs were imported by that railway and should be taken into reckoning in any comparison with imports of previous years. Of the total imports 82 per cent. came from the United Kingdom, while Belgium contributed 12 per cent.,

consisting mainly of carriages and parts and sleepers and keys of steel and iron worth Rs. 15·22 lakhs. Another notable change was that since the beginning of the year 1925-26 figures of rails, chairs and fishplates imported for railways were being included under iron and steel. The total value of imports under this head was therefore exclusive of the value (nearly Rs. 7 lakhs) of these articles imported by railways. Compared with last year's figures there was thus a real increase of Rs. 62 lakhs.

Sugar.—Due to abundant crops of both cane and beet sugar in all the principal growing countries prices continued to decline during the year under report. With stocks small at the beginning of the year and a substantial reduction in the Indian crop, purchases were on a larger scale, arrivals of both continental beet and Java sugar being considerably higher than in the preceding year. The drop in the supplies from Mauritius was due to the diversion of the sugar to the United Kingdom as a result of the restoration of the amount of preference previously enjoyed by Empire sugar. Java was the chief source of supply and her supplies more than doubled, having increased from 68,000 tons to 139,000 tons in the year under report. Imports of continental beet rose by 12,000 tons to 27,000 tons owing chiefly to larger arrivals from Hungary, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

Tea.—There was a notable improvement in the imports of black tea from Ceylon, but despatches from China dropped considerably, amounting only to 47,000 lb. against 275,000 lb. in the last year. Imports from Calcutta were remarkably low, having fallen from 2 million lb. to 424,000 lb. in the year under review. Re-exports of foreign tea recorded a small improvement. Exports of Indian tea decreased slightly in quantity but showed a small improvement in value. Persia, Mesopotamia and the countries on the Arabian and East African littoral, the principal markets which used to receive their supplies of tea from Bombay, now obtain direct shipments from Calcutta.

Textiles.—

Cotton, raw.—The increase recorded successively during the last two years was not maintained and imports fell by 2,589 tons to 17,504 tons in quantity and by Rs. 59·92 lakhs to Rs. 3·64 crores in value due mainly to smaller arrivals from the United Kingdom and Kenya Colony. Shipments from the former decreased from 1,326 tons to 207 tons and from the latter from 16,241 tons to 15,662 tons in quantity, values dropping from Rs. 23·32 lakhs to Rs. 2·74 lakhs and from Rs. 3·6 crores to

Rs. 3·37 crores respectively. Of the 16,000 tons of the African cotton imported, 6,000 tons went to Japan, 1,000 tons to the United Kingdom and 900 tons to the Continent of Europe, the balance being apparently consumed by the Indian mills which now use fine foreign cotton to a small extent.

Cotton piecegoods.—The year was a disappointing one for the trade. The year opened with a considerable accumulation of stocks and the steady demand necessary to work these off was absent. Instead, there was at one time uncertainty as to the monsoon and above all uncertainty as to future prices owing to the fluctuating estimates of the American crop during the period of falling prices following on the bumper crop finally recorded, larger orders could not be expected. In consequence contracts during the actual busy season tended to be of a retail character only.

The total value of imports of cotton piecegoods (including fents) fell by Rs. 2·34 crores to Rs. 14·19 crores. The largest drop was recorded in coloured piecegoods which was responsible for a decrease of Rs. 1·19 crore, grey and white piecegoods sharing Rs. 68·09 lakhs and Rs. 48·87 lakhs respectively. Imports of fents valued at Rs. 65·07 lakhs showed a small improvement due to larger despatches from the United States of America amounting to Rs. 26·09 lakhs against Rs. 14·05 lakhs in the last year, while the arrivals from the United Kingdom receded from Rs. 48·53 lakhs to Rs. 38·43 lakhs. The share of the United Kingdom in the total imports under this head was 69 per cent. against 74 per cent. in the preceding year while that of Japan rose from 17 per cent. to 22 per cent. in the year under report. Imports of grey piecegoods fell by Rs. 68·09 lakhs to Rs. 3·92 crores chiefly as a result of smaller arrivals from the United Kingdom. The share of Japan was larger than that of the United Kingdom and rose from 54 to 69·7 per cent. Longcloth and shirtings and sheetings were the chief items under this head, the bulk of which is supplied by Japan. Imports of the former from Japan increased by Rs. 42·38 lakhs to Rs. 1·68 crore but supplies of the latter further receded by Rs. 19·2 lakhs to Rs. 66·79 lakhs. As usual, the United Kingdom was the principal source of supply of white and coloured piecegoods, both of which showed considerable decreases. Imports of whites declined by Rs. 48·87 lakhs to Rs. 3·8 crores of which British supplies constituted about 89 per cent. against 90 per cent. in the preceding year. The principal varieties are (1) mulls, (2) longcloth and shirtings, (3) nainsooks, and (4) dhutis, saries, and scarves, the bulk of which came from the

United Kingdom. Imports of coloured piecegoods dropped by Rs. 1·19 crore to Rs. 5·82 crores to which the United Kingdom contributed 84 per cent. against 85 per cent. in the preceding year, the principal items being (1) prints and chintz, (2) saris and scarves, (3) shirtings, (4) cambrics and (5) unspecified descriptions.

Cotton yarn.—

From	Quantity in thousands of lb.		Value in lakhs of rupees	
	1924-25	1925-26	1924-25	1925-26
United Kingdom	8,481	5,270	188	102
Japan	18,105	21,165	264	279
Other countries	729	219	12	3

The total imports of cotton yarn decreased by 661,000 lb. to over 26½ million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 80·32 lakhs to Rs. 3·84 crores in value, owing mainly to a marked fall in the arrivals from the United Kingdom. Imports from the United Kingdom, which were mainly of higher counts, fell by nearly 3¼ million lb. to 5¼ million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 86·43 lakhs to Rs. 1·02 crore in value. On the other hand arrivals from Japan advanced by 3 million lb. to 21 million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 14·66 lakhs to Rs. 2·79 crores in value. A noteworthy feature of the arrivals from Japan in the year under review was that supplies of lower counts again fell while those of higher counts showed a notable improvement. Her despatches of 16s to 20s decreased by 272,000 lb. to over 1⅓ million lb. and 21s to 30s from 370,000 lb. to 150,000 lb. Her sendings of 31s to 40s on the other hand, improved from 10½ million lb. to 12 million lb. Even the arrivals of higher counts 51s to 60s rose further from 343,000 lb. to 651,000 lb. and those of 61s to 100s and above 100s amounted to 24,000 lb. and 70,000 lb. respectively against none in the preceding year. These figures suggest very forcibly that the Japanese competition in yarn militates more against Lancashire than Bombay. Despatches from China were 56,000 lb. only against 326,000 lb. in the last year. During the year under report imports of mercerised cotton yarn amounted to 2¾ million lb. valued at Rs. 63·77 lakhs as against over 2½ million lb. valued at Rs. 71·07 lakhs. The chief source of supply was Japan, the share

of the United Kingdom being 10 per cent. In the following table the production of yarn in the Bombay Presidency is compared with the import from abroad.

The production of yarn was naturally affected adversely by the mill strike.

(The figures are shown in millions)

	Yarn imported			Yarn locally produced		
	26s to 30s	31s and upwards	Total yarn	26s to 30s	31s and upwards	Total yarn
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
1921-1922 ..	3·42	15·48	31·18	39·75	14·87	400
1922-1923 ..	4·52	14·36	33·87	39·72	14·13	497
1923-1924 ..	·84	11·77	23·55	41·95	15·93	398
1924-1925 ..	·63	15·55	27·31	50·48	19·85	474
1925-1926 ..	·42	15·51	26·65	51·12	19·00	423

Silk.—Imports of raw silk again fell by 222,000 lb. to 875,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 23·33 lakhs to Rs. 61·31 lakhs in value owing to smaller shipments from Hongkong and Japan. The arrivals from China and Siam showed a small improvement in quantity but a fall in value. Imports of silk yarn, noils and warps fell by 947,000 lb. to 524,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 64·94 lakhs to Rs. 33·72 lakhs in value, due to a reduction in imports from all the supplying countries notably Japan, Italy and China.

Imports of silk piecegoods, the most important item in the group, again improved in quantity by over 1¼ million yards to nearly 13 million yards but declined in value by Rs. 14·22 lakhs to Rs. 1·65 crore owing to lower prices. Shipments from China, France and the United Kingdom, notably from the first named country, were larger, while those from Japan and Hongkong fell off. The market was at one time perturbed by rumours of large imports into India *via* Siam, on which no import duty was paid. As a result of representations made by the Trade, silk goods imported over the land frontier of Siam were made liable to import duty. Arrivals of silk mixtures also improved slightly in quantity by 62,000 yards to over 1¼ million yards but decreased in value by Rs. 1·32 lakh to Rs. 18·32 lakhs. The improvement in quantity was due to larger supplies from Japan and Switzerland, especially from the former, but imports from Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom were on a smaller scale.

The steady progress noticed in artificial silk yarn in the two preceding years continued during the year under review and supplies rose by over 1 million lb. to 2 million lb. and by Rs. 24·26 lakhs to Rs. 56·19 lakhs in value; the chief sources of supply were Italy, the United Kingdom and Germany. Imports of piecegoods of cotton and artificial silk also improved by 105,000 yards to over 9¼ million yards in quantity but fell by Rs. 15·38 lakhs to Rs. 85·94 lakhs in value. The principal suppliers were the United Kingdom, Italy and Switzerland.

Wool, raw and manufactured.—Imports of raw wool improved considerably in quantity by 782,000 lb. to 4¼ million lb. owing chiefly to larger imports from Persia. Supplies from Australia increased by Rs. 1·24 lakh but those from the United Kingdom declined by Rs. 3·36 lakhs. Most of the Persian wool is reshipped to foreign countries. Imports of woollen piecegoods, the most important item in this group, decreased by Rs. 2·32 lakhs to Rs. 1·23 crore due chiefly to smaller supplies from the United Kingdom and Germany. Arrivals from Italy, on the other hand, improved by Rs. 8·35 lakhs to Rs. 19·04 lakhs, and from Belgium by Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 4·65 lakhs, both countries sending mainly piecegoods of cheaper qualities. The United Kingdom, the chief source of supply, supplied 63 per cent. of the total imports. Most of the other manufactures of wool, particularly carpets and rugs, showed increases. Imports of shawls declined.

FOREIGN MERCHANDISE

EXPORTS

Articles were re-exported from Bombay to the value of 758 lakhs.

The destinations of these re-exports are shown in the subjoined table :—

Countries	1924-25	1925-26	Increase or decrease
	Rs. (in lakhs)	Rs. (in lakhs)	Rs. (in lakhs)
Mesoptotamia..	69·95	51·45	—18·50
Persia	83·29	71·25	—12·04
United Kingdom	244·82	199·27	—45·55
Arabia	95·09	58·79	—36·30

Countries	1924-25	1925-26	Increase or decrease
	Rs. (in lakhs)	Rs. (in lakhs)	Rs. (in lakhs)
Aden	46·13	21·46	—24·67
Tanganyika Territory	12·25	6·96	— 5·29
Kenya Colony	43·31	23·79	—19·52
Other European Countries	69·23	77·00	+ 7·77
Japan	164·36	128·45	—35·91
Hongkong	11·09	9·85	— 1·24
Ceylon	25·19	22·55	— 2·64
Straits Settlements (including Labuan)	20·85	24·79	+ 3·94
United States of America	26·51	15·40	—11·11
Zanzibar and Pemba	22·99	11·06	—11·93

There was a very marked falling off in the entrepot trade of Bombay during the year under review, the value contracting by Rs. 2·33 crores and falling to Rs. 7·58 crores. Raw cotton accounted for Rs. 75 lakhs of this fall due partly to the fact that East African cotton was shipped direct to the United Kingdom instead of *via* Bombay, and partly to Japan finding it less profitable to import East African cotton than in the previous year. The fall of Rs. 87 lakhs in re-export of cotton manufactures reflects the smaller imports during the year and the general trade depression which prevailed, East Africa, Aden, Arabia and Mesopotamia all took smaller quantities. Re-exports of sugar contracted further by 4,800 tons to 10,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 32·28 lakhs to Rs. 30·53 lakhs in value owing chiefly to smaller reshipments to Persia, Zanzibar and Pemba, Mesopotamia and Arabia. Direct shipments from the United Kingdom to these countries apparently increased and Karachi obtained also a larger share in this trade. On the other hand 1,500 tons went to the United Kingdom against none in the last year. Re-exports of raw hides and skins which consisted almost entirely of Persian fur-bearing skins also fell by 136 tons to 307 tons in quantity and by Rs. 29·4 lakhs to Rs. 1·1 crore in value, due to smaller demand from the United Kingdom and the United States of America and to cessation of demand from Canada.

INDIAN PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES

The principal feature of the export trade was that the total value of Indian produce exported again fell from Rs. 98·6 crores to Rs. 94·74 crores. This fall was attributable mainly to a large shrinkage in shipments of cotton manufactures, raw wool, cotton, yarn and seeds. On the other hand such principal articles, as grain, pulse and flour, raw hides and skins and metals and ores, recorded improvements. The total value of tea exported was practically stationary but the quantity declined to a small extent as a result of smaller despatches to Persia. The decrease of Rs. 12·15 lakhs in myrabolams was due to a smaller demand from the United Kingdom, the continental countries and the United States of America. Exports of groundnut cakes decreased by Rs. 7·47 lakhs to Rs. 25·66 lakhs owing chiefly to reduced demand from the United Kingdom and Germany, but Ceylon and Belgium increased their takings considerably. The improvement of Rs. 3·06 lakhs in linseed cake was due to larger shipments to the Netherlands and Belgium, the United Kingdom taking 900 tons less than in the previous year. Exports of raw hemp declined from Rs. 54·93 lakhs to Rs. 48·16 lakhs in consequence of smaller demand from the United Kingdom and France ; while shipments of spices were larger by Rs. 17·13 lakhs to Rs. 52·19 lakhs owing to larger despatches of pepper to the United Kingdom, the Straits Settlements, Egypt and the United States of America for which the poor crop in the Straits Settlements was largely accountable.

Grain, pulse and flour.—The principal items under this head are wheat, wheatflour and rice. Exports of wheat fell by 16,000 tons to 42,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 17·77 lakhs to Rs. 79·16 lakhs in value owing mainly to smaller shipments to Italy and France. Shipments to the United Kingdom and Mesopotamia, on the other hand, increased by 2,000 tons to 13,000 tons and 6,000 tons to 9,000 tons respectively. Exports of wheatflour decreased from 24,000 tons to 22,000 tons in quantity and from Rs. 57·52 lakhs to Rs. 55·48 lakhs in value owing chiefly to smaller shipments to other Native States in Arabia, Ceylon and Egypt, Persian purchases being 3,000 tons more than in the last year. Shipments of rice, on the other hand, improved by 12,000 tons to 27,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 24·41 lakhs to Rs. 63·48 lakhs in value owing mainly to larger takings by Mesopotamia, Persia and other Native States in Arabia. Shipments of lentils and jawar and bajri improved but those of other food grains declined.

Hides and Skins (raw and tanned).—The trade recovered somewhat from the setback noticed last year and exports of raw hides increased from 55 tons valued at Rs. 1·14 lakhs to 417 tons valued at Rs. 7·1 lakhs in the year under review. Shipments of tanned hides, on the other hand, declined by 465 tons to 954 tons in quantity and by Rs. 18·06 lakhs to Rs. 38·91 lakhs in value. Exports of raw skins improved by 577 tons to 3,979 tons in quantity and by Rs. 9·01 lakhs to Rs. 55·85 lakhs in value.

Metals and Ores.—Manganese ore is the principal item in this group and the total quantity of the ore shipped from British India fell from 639,000 tons to 564,000 tons in the year under review. While Bengal and Madras sent 57,000 tons and 20,000 tons less, Bombay improved its share by 2,000 tons owing to larger exports to Belgium which took 75,000 tons against 62,000 tons in the previous year.

Seeds.—Oilseeds rank next in importance to raw cotton in the export trade of Bombay. The total shipments improved to a small extent in quantity by 3,000 tons to 519,000 tons but decreased in value by Rs. 59·61 lakhs to Rs. 11·81 crores as a result of lower prices. A feature of the year was that three of the six important items under this head, *viz.* linseed, rapeseed and cottonseed, showed decreases, the most marked being in linseed. Exports of linseed fell by 34,000 tons to 153,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 86·93 lakhs to Rs. 4·21 crores in value owing chiefly to a falling off in the demand from France and the United Kingdom, while sesamum, castor seed and groundnuts recorded noticeable increases. The increase in groundnuts was indeed striking and justified the additional acreage sown. Shipments advanced by 39,000 tons to 85,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 88·1 lakhs to Rs. 2·16 crores in value. The bulk of the additional exports was taken by France and Italy.

Textiles.—

Cotton, raw.—A heavy fall in prices was the most marked feature of the year. The American cotton crop for 1925-26 season was definitely reported to be the largest on record, namely in the neighbourhood of 17 million bales and this followed on another large crop of over 13 million bales in 1924. The 1924-25 crop in India constituted a record amounting to over 6 million bales and the yield of 1925-26 was nearly as large. The growth of cotton in other parts of the world was also satisfactory. The natural effect was a gradual decline in prices : it is surprising indeed that the fall was not heavier. Due to the uncertain position of the American crop in the beginning of the 1925 season fluctuations were irregular. Prices in Bombay were above

American parity. The Indian crop was large but much of it was inferior in quality being damaged by the late unseasonable rains.

In view of abundant supplies of American cotton and the comparatively high prices of Indian cotton, continental spinners were induced to purchase a large quantity of American cotton. In consequence shipments to Europe were on a somewhat smaller scale than in the previous year. On the other hand, owing to the uncertainty of conditions in China, both that country and Japan took considerably large supplies and total shipments exceeded the previous year by 73,000 tons.

Cotton Manufactures.—The depression which characterised the mill industry during the two preceding years settled down more heavily than ever during the year under review. Prices of cloth and yarn were continually falling. Lack of confidence rendered business on a wholesale basis impossible and whatever sales were effected were made at unremunerative rates. Production, particularly of coloured cloth, fell off to a very marked extent, as compared with the preceding year. In consequence total shipments during the year fell by 22¾ million yards to 120 million yards in quantity and by Rs. 1·05 crore to Rs. 3·56 crores in value. Mesopotamia, Persia, Arabia and most of the countries in East Africa, which are the principal markets, took smaller quantities, the decrease being more marked in the takings of Mesopotamia and Persia, where the competition of Japan in Greys and of Italy in Susi checks had a detrimental effect on Bombay's exports. The percentage shares of grey and coloured piecegoods remained unchanged. Mesopotamia continued the largest buyer of grey piecegoods and Persia of coloured piecegoods, closely followed by Mesopotamia.

The following figures indicate more clearly the changes in the trade :—

Exports of piecegoods

(In lakhs of yards)

	Grey		Coloured	
	Indian	Foreign	Indian	Foreign
1918-19	512	400	636	392
1919-20	725	359	869	238
1920-21	473	320	660	131
1921-22	238	469	1,024	109
1922-23	305	512	898	126
1923-24	330	404	920	107
1924-25	437	317	984	119
1925-26	369	152	828	98

The exports of both grey and coloured Indian piecegoods, particularly of the latter, show notable decreases. Re-exports of foreign greys and coloured goods also fell considerably.

Cotton yarn.—For largely the same reasons the yarn trade was also disappointing. The price of yarn steadily declined in sympathy with that of cotton. The general demand was not attractive and hence there was no scope for operations on a big scale. The net result was that exports of yarn again declined by 4½ million lb. to 31½ million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 74·51 lakhs to Rs. 2·9 crores in value. Italy, European Turkey, Persia and Straits Settlements increased their demand, but there was a heavy falling off in shipments to Hongkong, Egypt, Mesopotamia and Syria.

Wool, raw.—The improvement noticed last year due largely to the high prices obtaining in the United Kingdom did not continue in the year under review owing to a general fall in prices and exports fell by nearly 5½ million lb. to nearly 18 million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 86·63 lakhs to Rs. 1·7 crore in value mainly owing to smaller shipments to the United Kingdom. Despatches to the United States of America and France also declined by Rs. 2·36 lakhs and Rs. 1·29 lakh. Germany took none against 144,000 lb. in the last year.

TRADE ACCORDING TO COUNTRIES

The most noticeable feature was that the United Kingdom yielded pride of place to Japan, whose share in both Import and Export trade increased, while the United Kingdom's share decreased on both counts. The actual percentages were a rise in imports and exports from Japan while those from the United Kingdom fell. The share of the British Empire as a whole declined from 38·12 per cent. to 34·56 per cent., imports falling from 55·63 to 52·46 and exports from 24·01 to 20·74. The percentage share of the Continent of Europe also decreased from 24·38 per cent. to 23·04 per cent. owing chiefly to smaller trade with Germany and Italy, the improvements in the shares of France, Belgium and the Netherlands being insignificant. America increased her share from 3·23 per cent. to 3·74.

Under imports the United Kingdom's figure fell further by Rs. 4·98 crores to Rs. 32·87 crores owing to smaller arrivals of cotton piecegoods, cotton yarn, iron and steel, and cotton spinning machinery. Imports from other British possessions also dropped by Rs. 2·22 crores to Rs. 8·54 crores. Among foreign countries in Asia imports from Japan, next in importance to the United Kingdom, increased by Rs. 20·73 lakhs. Imports from China were down by Rs. 17·25 lakhs to Rs. 1·9 crore.

Under exports Japan continued to occupy the first place and her share improved from 35·52 per cent. to 37·07 per cent. as a result of her heavy purchases of raw cotton. It is worthy of note that her total purchases from Bombay are some four times larger than the value of the merchandise she exports to this city. The United Kingdom comes next with a percentage share of 11·31 against 13·47 in the last year, the decrease being due to restricted shipments of raw wool, seeds, raw cotton and hides and skins both raw and tanned.

Treasure.—The unprecedented heavy importations of gold and silver in the previous year were bound to react on the imports of the precious metals into Bombay during the year under review. With the pound sterling linked once more to gold and the rise in the rupee limited, there was little scope for speculative buying. Consequently the total imports of treasure on private account fell from last year's record figure of Rs. 95·07 crores to Rs. 51·08 crores. Imports both of gold and silver declined, the former by Rs. 37·68 crores to Rs. 34·66 crores and the latter by Rs. 6·06 crores to Rs. 16·03 crores. The arrivals of gold bullion dropped by Rs. 34·92 crores to Rs. 23·64 crores. The major portion of it came from Natal as the cheapest market imports amounting to Rs. 15·6 crores. The United Kingdom sent Rs. 5·59 crores and America Rs. 1·72 crore only. Imports of sovereigns from the United Kingdom receded by Rs. 5·38 crores to Rs. 4·84 crores, the United States sent Rs. 87,000 worth against Rs. 25·87 lakhs and Switzerland none against Rs. 1·16 crore ; receipts from Natal amounted to Rs. 3·92 crores against none in the preceding year. The increase of Rs. 85·16 lakhs in other coined gold was due mainly to larger importations of Turkish gold coins from Mesopotamia and of gold dollars from the United States. Imports of silver on private account declined by Rs. 6·06 crores to Rs. 16·03 crores. The decrease of Rs. 40·96 lakhs in other kinds of uncoined silver was due to no sycee silver coming from China. Imports of Government of India rupees decreased by Rs. 83·98 lakhs to Rs. 1·06 crore owing chiefly to smaller arrivals from Mesopotamia, Bahrein Islands and Zanzibar.

Exports of gold and silver on private account also declined, the former by Rs. 9·9 lakhs to Rs. 22·86 lakhs owing to smaller shipments of sovereigns to Bahrein Islands and the latter by Rs. 1·1 crore to Rs. 2·53 crores due to smaller shipments of bars to China and of Government of India rupees to Ports in the Persian Gulf and Zanzibar.

There were no imports of gold on Government account but those of silver improved by Rs. 2·29 lakhs to Rs. 4·35 lakhs.

Imports of currency notes on private account fell from Rs. 61·14 lakhs to Rs. 31·16 lakhs ; while exports rose from Rs. 34·75 lakhs to Rs. 44 lakhs. Imports on Government account were Rs. 2·32 lakhs against none in the previous year, but exports show little variation.

SHIPPING

The total number of vessels engaged in the foreign trade increased from 1,321 to 1,404 and the total net tonnage from 4,131,349 to 4,401,329. Of these, steamers numbered 1,141 of the burthen of 4,369,709 as against 1,084 of 4,101,623 tons in the preceding year. The average tonnage of steamers which entered the port with cargo was 3,783 against 3,809 in the previous year. Sailing vessels consisted entirely of "native craft" engaged in trade with ports in the Persian Gulf, Arabia and East Africa.

COASTING TRADE

The coasting trade excluding treasure between the chief port, Bombay, and other ports in India grouped by Provinces is summarised in the following statement :—

(In lakhs of rupees)

	Imports			Exports		
	1924-25	1925-26	Increase or decrease	1924-25	1925-26	Increase or decrease
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
British Ports within the Presidency ..	117	136	+ 19	226	261	+ 35
Indian Ports not British within the Presidency	794	1,074	+ 280	409	470	+ 61
British Ports in other Presidencies ..	1,989	2,199	+ 210	2,446	2,205	— 241
Indian Ports not British in other Presidencies	96	116	+ 20	55	74	+ 19
Grand Total ..	2,996	3,525	+ 529	3,136	3,010	— 126

Imports from coast ports into Bombay almost entirely consist of articles of Indian produce intended partly for consumption in the Presidency and partly for re-export to foreign countries.

The total imports into Bombay improved by Rs. 5·3 crores to Rs. 35·26 crores mainly as a result of larger arrivals of grain, pulse and flour and raw cotton, which form the most important

items under imports. Imports of grain, pulse and flour advanced by Rs. 2·52 crores owing to increased shipments of rice from Burma and of wheat from Sind. The improvement in raw cotton of Rs. 1·76 crore to Rs. 13·34 crores was due to larger receipts from Kathiawar, the Southern Maratha Country *via* Goa, and Madras, while those from Sind fell considerably. Among other articles, imports of kerosene from Burma increased by Rs. 63·55 lakhs to Rs. 1·81 crore. There were larger arrivals also of teak wood from Burma, seeds from Travancore, coal from Bengal and spices from British Ports within the Presidency, Travancore and Madras; imports of tea from Bengal and raw wool from Sind showed noticeable decreases.

Exports from Bombay, on the other hand, again fell by Rs. 1·27 crore to Rs. 30·1 crores mainly as a result of smaller shipments of Indian produce. Exports of Indian produce, which formed over 75 per cent. of the total exports, declined by Rs. 2·58 crores to Rs. 22·7 crores owing chiefly to smaller despatches of cotton piece-goods and cotton twist and yarn to Bengal and Sind; on the other hand there was a noticeable increase in the exports of grain, pulse and flour which improved by Rs. 52·16 lakhs to Rs. 3·18 crores due mainly to larger despatches of rice to Kathiawar, wheatflour to Burma and pulse to Madras. Re-exports of foreign merchandise increased by Rs. 1·31 crore to Rs. 7·39 crores in consequence of larger reshipments of cotton piece-goods to Madras and Travancore, metals and machinery and millwork to British Ports within the Presidency and kerosene oil to Kathiawar.

SUBORDINATE PORTS OF THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

FOREIGN TRADE

The foreign trade of the Subordinate Ports of the Presidency is quite insignificant. Imports, which chiefly consisted of dates from Mesopotamia, advanced from Rs. 4·22 lakhs to Rs. 5·75 lakhs, while exports fell from Rs. 14,834 to Rs. 1,323 owing to smaller shipments of firewood and to no gunny bags being shipped to Madagascar.

COASTING TRADE

The total value of the coasting trade of the Subordinate Ports increased further by Rs. 14·56 lakhs to Rs. 8·22 crores, both imports and exports being responsible for the increase. Imports advanced by Rs. 10·49 lakhs to Rs. 4·65 crores and exports by Rs. 4·07 lakhs to Rs. 3·57 crores. Forty-eight

per cent. of the total trade of the Subordinate Ports of the Presidency is with the Chief Port—Bombay.

THE TRADE OF SIND

The trade accounts for the year under review may well be described as disappointing when compared with those of the two previous years which recorded a distinct improvement following the depression which set in at the end of 1920. The entire maritime trade of the Province of Sind during the year under review was valued at Rs. 84 crores 3 lakhs or Rs. 25 crores 73 lakhs and 23 per cent. less than the corresponding figures for the previous year. The foreign trade accounted for 78 per cent. of the total, a reduction of 26 per cent. compared with 1924-25. Exports contributed 56 per cent. and imports 44 per cent. of the total value of the foreign trade, the former falling by Rs. 17 crores 88 lakhs to Rs. 37 crores 10 lakhs and the latter by Rs. 4 crores 69 lakhs to Rs. 28 crores 73 lakhs.

CHIEF PORT—KARACHI

As is natural in a port which depends for the prosperity of its trade on the extent of the supplies of food-stuffs and raw materials and produce shipped to foreign countries, the setback was due in the first place to the curtailment of exports of wheat, barley and rape seed owing to a reduction in the world prices of the first two commodities accompanied by a fall in the quantities available for export. The drop was of course more marked in the case of wheat, shipments having declined to the extent of no less than Rs. 13 crores 42 lakhs, though serious decreases were also recorded in the shipments of rape seed and barley. The unfavourable position created by the decline in the value and volume of these exports was relieved only by a notable expansion in the shipments of raw cotton which made a fresh record in the history of the Port, and but for this remarkable rise the position in the export trade as a whole would have been exceedingly unfavourable.

The position in regard to the import trade is less depressing. The fall in the total value of this trade was due partly to a reduction in the general price level of several commodities but the main cause of the decline was an appreciable contraction in the values of cotton manufactures and sugar, which are the two leading commodities in the import trade. Business in cotton goods was restricted by the heavy losses suffered by dealers owing to the drop in prices, and to the disastrous speculations by many of them in sugar. Among the principal features, besides the fall in prices

referred to above, which affected commercial transactions during the year, the continued stability of exchange and the stringency of the money-market during the greater part of the year are deserving of note.

Notes on the changes in the value and volume of important articles in the trade are given below :—

IMPORTS

Chemicals, Drugs, and Medicines.—The total value fell short by Rs. 2·32 lakhs or 7 per cent. to Rs. 33·24 lakhs, the United Kingdom being the main supplier as usual. The decrease occurred chiefly in receipts of alum, soda bicarbonate, caustic soda and soda ash and crystals and was ascribed to overstocked markets.

Coal.—Imports of coal which totalled 83,452 tons valued at Rs. 20·53 lakhs, showed a decrease of 23,428 tons in quantity and of Rs. 6·76 lakhs in value. The decrease was, however, more than counterbalanced by the large increase of 49,318 tons in imports of Indian coal from Bengal.

Cotton twist and yarn.—Imports of cotton twist and yarn amounted to 828,841 lbs. valued at Rs. 11·44 lakhs and were short of those in the previous year by 392,812 lbs. or 32 per cent. in quantity and by Rs. 9·66 lakhs or 46 per cent. in value. Large stocks held in the previous year and the smaller demand by the Indian mills due to the depressed condition of the trade account for the decrease.

Cotton yarns and manufactures.—The year 1925-26 was one of disappointment to dealers in cotton goods. Several factors contributed to bring about this unsatisfactory position. The large stocks of high-priced piece-goods remaining in hand at the close of the previous year coupled with the marked decline in Manchester prices which occurred at the beginning of the year under review resulted in heavy losses being incurred. The position was further aggravated by the disastrous speculations of several piece-goods merchants in the sugar trade. The progressive fall in the Manchester market created a feeling of uncertainty as to the future level of prices. In consequence there was a disposition to buy cautiously, especially as the money-market was tight and the financial condition of the merchants poor. The total value of cotton yarn and manufactures decreased from Rs. 13 crores to Rs. 8 crores 87½ lakhs.

Cutlery, Hardware, Implements and Instruments.—The aggregate value of imports increased by Rs. 1·27 lakhs to Rs. 61·78 lakhs. Of the principal articles under this group, builders'

hardware recorded a total value of Rs. 5·98 lakhs which exceeded the last year's imports by Rs. 72,276. It is significant to note that Germany on account of its low prices was able to compete successfully with Sweden which was hitherto the chief supplier. The value of German imports which totalled Rs. 2·53 lakhs showed a remarkable expansion of no less than 140 per cent., while Swedish supplies declined by 42 per cent. to Rs. 1·49 lakhs. The high level recorded in the value of imports of cutlery in the previous year was reduced by Rs. 1·09 lakhs to Rs. 6·58 lakhs, the decrease being noticeable in receipts from both Germany and the United Kingdom. The position as regards metal lamps was also almost the same.

Machinery.—With the growing activity in industrial concerns, both in the Province and the Punjab, imports of machinery expanded further by Rs. 36·54 lakhs or 30 per cent. to Rs. 158·01 lakhs.

No fewer than 700 oil-engines, mainly British, valued at Rs. 17·93 lakhs arrived during the year as against 581 valued at Rs. 17·38 lakhs. Most of these engines consisted of cheap second-hand rebuilt engines. The demand for oil-engines is constantly on the increase, the small industrialist in particular having apparently realized that the oil-engine is the cheapest power producer. The increase in the value of electrical machinery from Rs. 7·18 lakhs to Rs. 19·49 lakhs is explained by the fact that advantage is now being taken of the many new electrical concerns recently started in the Punjab and the United Provinces by small factories which receive electrical energy at a small cost. The marked increase of Rs. 6·36 lakhs or 64 per cent. under mining machinery was noticeable in shipments from the United States of America, which sent some Rs. 13 lakhs worth of this machinery against Rs. 7 lakhs last year. The large number of mechanical dragline excavators imported for the Sukkur Barrage and the Sutlej-valley Projects mainly accounted for the expansion. The increase of 1,091 in the number of sewing machines was due to larger arrivals of German machines, the figures for the past two years being 6,765 and 8,942 machines, respectively. These machines are becoming more popular in the market on account of their cheapness. The number of British machines, on the other hand, decreased from 23,091 to 22,011.

Metals.—Imports under metal and metal manufactures rose by 5,630 tons in quantity and by Rs. 2½ lakhs in value. A keen competition among the exporting countries and a further reduction in prices were the salient features in the trade in iron and steel during the year under report. As regards the local market,

the heavy imports made in the previous year had been absorbed and the market opened with comparative low stocks. An increased demand to meet the requirements of public and private constructional works which were taken in hand during the year both in Karachi and upcountry led to a further expansion in imports, the volume increasing by 5,519 tons or 6 per cent. and the value by Rs. 1·17 lakhs or 1 per cent. The relatively lower increase in the value was due to a reduction in prices. It is interesting to note here that out of the total quantity of iron and steel imported, *viz.* 96,836 tons, no fewer than 79,594 tons or 82 per cent. represented descriptions which paid protective rates of import duty. Despite their heavy reductions in prices British Manufacturers were unable to make any headway against the severe competition in foreign markets. Belgium again supplied the largest quantity. Supplies from the United States of America were double those in the previous year and mainly consisted of tin plates for the manufacture of tins for kerosene oil.

Oils.—There was an increase of Rs. 35·18 lakhs or 32 per cent. in the aggregate value of imports under oils.

Of the total quantity of mineral oils imported from foreign countries 65 per cent. consisted of kerosene oil. Imports of this oil expanded by 3,860,277 gallons in quantity and by Rs. 23·84 lakhs in value. The improvement occurred mainly under bulk oil from the United States of America, case oil showing a shortage of 84,434 gallons. American oil is largely in demand in the Punjab, Cutch and Kathiawar on account of its superior quality. A feature in the oil industry was an increase in the world production of crude oil during 1925, the estimated production in the United States of America showing an increase of about 7 per cent. over that in 1924. The consignment of 809,489 gallons of kerosene oil from Egypt represented white oil of a superior quality from the refineries at Suez, intended to compete with superior American oils. Coastwise imports from Burma also showed an increase of 3,232,188 gallons over the figures recorded last year. The phenomenal rise in imports of fuel oil was due to a continuous increase in its consumption by oil driven ships as well as for oil engines generally. Imports during the year, which amounted to 7,271,389 gallons valued at Rs. 23·03 lakhs, were the highest on record, the quantity being 2,765,832 gallons and the value Rs. 8·42 lakhs in excess of the corresponding figures for 1924-25, of which $4\frac{2}{5}$ million gallons came from Persia.

Piece-goods.—Imports of cotton piece-goods declined by 23 per cent. in volume and by 32 per cent. in value, the higher

percentage of decrease in the value being due to lower prices. As compared with the pre-war year, the quantity showed a diminution of nearly 40 per cent., but the value rose by 20 per cent. owing to the present relatively high level of prices. All the three sub-divisions of piece-goods, *viz.* grey, white and coloured, suffered a setback during the year.

Silk.—Imports of silk yarn and manufactures were valued at Rs. 4·75 lakhs, showing a slight decrease of Rs. 30,083, which was due to smaller arrivals of silk piece-goods from Hongkong and China.

Sugar.—The outstanding feature was that whereas the quantity of sugar imported from foreign countries, *viz.* 169,003 tons, declined by only 12 per cent. as compared with the corresponding figures of the previous year, the value recorded, *viz.* Rs. 351·24 lakhs, decreased by no less than 39 per cent. This was obviously due to a heavy fall in prices consequent on the enormous increase in the world production, the total outturn for 1925-26 in Java alone, from which the bulk of the supplies were received, being estimated at 2,294,000 tons compared with 1,977,490 tons in the previous year. As a result of the marked fall in prices, the average rates prevailing were actually below the pre-war level, a gratifying feature from the consumer's point of view. From Rs. 17-2 per cwt. on the 7th April the local quotations for white Java sugar gradually declined to Rs. 15-4 in the second week of June and to Rs. 13-1 towards the end of October, after which a firmer tendency was evident and prices rose steadily to Rs. 15-6 at the close of the year. The downward movement and heavy losses suffered by many speculative dealers tended to restrict the volume of business done.

Woollen goods.—As a result of a considerable reduction in prices in the exporting countries, imports of woollen goods exhibited a remarkable improvement. The quantity of yarn and knitting wool increased by 139,706 lbs. to 386,629 lbs. and the value by Rs. 4·06 lakhs to Rs. 14·76 lakhs. A brisk demand from Amritsar, the chief consuming market, gave an impetus to the trade. The trade in woollen piece-goods was also equally brisk. Imports which amounted to 3,770,168 yards valued at Rs. 67·45 lakhs showed an excess of 1,248,717 yards and Rs. 16·06 lakhs over the imports in the previous year. The increase occurred chiefly in purchases from Belgium and France, the value of their goods rising from Rs. 6·97 lakhs to Rs. 16·33 lakhs and from Rs. 16·71 lakhs to Rs. 23·24 lakhs, respectively. The value of supplies from the United Kingdom, on the other hand, contracted by Rs. 2·20 lakhs to Rs. 17·41 lakhs. British manufacturers had

a very unsatisfactory year and owing to the slump in prices business was mostly done at a very small margin of profit.

Tea.—A drop of 467,983 lbs. in quantity and of Rs. 5·28 lakhs in value reduced the total imports of tea to 600,947 lbs. valued at Rs. 6·21 lakhs. The decrease was confined to receipts of green tea from China whence only 371,024 lbs. of this variety valued at Rs. 3·89 lakhs were imported as against 882,914 lbs. valued at Rs. 9·71 lakhs in 1924-25. This tea was hitherto imported mainly for transit by land *via* Meshed to Russian Turkistan, which, it is understood, now obtains its supplies direct through Siberia. Purchases of black tea, which were mostly made from Ceylon, on the other hand increased by 30,129 lbs. to 214,559 lbs. in quantity and Rs. 41,882 to Rs. 2·19 lakhs in value.

Vehicles (excluding locomotives, etc., for railways).—The import trade of the port in vehicles has been making very rapid strides. The value recorded, *viz.*, Rs. 76·16 lakhs was higher than in any of the previous years, excepting 1920-21, when it was Rs. 122·49 lakhs. The record figure in 1920-21 was however due to high prices prevailing at the time. Motor cars, the principal item under this head, exhibited a remarkable expansion, their number having advanced by no fewer than 1,134 or 152 per cent. to 1,878 and the value by Rs. 21·26 lakhs or 111 per cent. to Rs. 40·43 lakhs. Lower prices and a brisk demand from the Punjab for passenger traffic stimulated imports. Canada sent more than three times as many motor cars as in the previous year, while imports from the United Kingdom more than doubled. The number of American cars was also nearly twice as many as in the previous year. Italy which supplied only 2 cars last year sent 89 during the year under report. The number of motor omnibuses, vans and lorries also rose from 120 to 325 and their value from Rs. 3·36 lakhs to Rs. 7·34 lakhs. As in the case of motor cars, lower prices and a good demand from the Punjab for goods and passenger traffic led to the improvement. The expansion under Cycles was also equally striking, the total number imported, *viz.* 15,632, having exceeded the imports of last year by 60 per cent. The value, however, advanced by 23 per cent. only. A feature during the year was the introduction of cheap English cycles sent out unassembled in packing which costs much less to ship and to import than the packing of assembled cycles. These unassembled English machines which were as cheap as the German article, were much preferred by the public on account of their durability, and no fewer than 15,135 cycles were imported during the

year as against 8,698 last year. The number of German machines, on the other hand, declined from 1,026 to 474.

EXPORTS

Grain, Pulse and Flour.—After the great activity of the previous year, the export business in grain, pulse and flour suffered a considerable setback. The aggregate shipments under this head dwindled from 1,671,075 tons in 1924-25 to the low figure of 324,712 tons or by 81 per cent. and the value from Rs. 2,402·52 lakhs to Rs. 555·63 lakhs or 77 per cent.

Wheat.—After the complete recovery noted in the previous year when exports of wheat, amounting to 1,046,255 tons valued at Rs. 1,611·75 lakhs exceeded the corresponding figures of the pre-war year 1913-14 by 17 per cent. in quantity and 65 per cent. in value, it is disappointing to record that shipments during the year under review were reduced to the low level of 163,094 tons valued at Rs. 269·63 lakhs. This heavy fall of nearly 84 per cent. in quantity and value was due to several factors. During the year under report, the prices of Indian wheat ruled high as a result of a considerable reduction in stocks caused by the abnormal shipments in the previous year and a smaller outturn of the 1924-25 crop. The position in other countries was, on the other hand, quite the reverse. Crops in Europe, America (particularly Canada) and Australia were very good, and in consequence, the demand for high priced Indian wheat ceased entirely. In fact the price offered for Indian wheat in the home market was much lower than that at which it could be obtained in India. No export business was, therefore, possible, and shipments, which were made only in the first half of the year, consisted entirely of forward business done in December 1924 and January 1925 when bullish tendencies influenced the home market. The turning point came in February 1925 when the home market completely collapsed owing partly to the arrival of large Australian shipments in Europe at very low prices, and also because European crops were, without exception, very good.

The total quantity of barley exported was 34,473 tons being 353,589 tons less than in the previous year which created a record at 388,062 tons. The decline in the value of exports was even more marked—the figures for the past two years being Rs. 449·37 lakhs and Rs. 46·13 lakhs respectively. This commodity was greatly in demand last year and high prices were paid, but during the year under report the crops in most European countries and America were good and the supply exceeded the demand.

Raw cotton.—Shipments of cotton, which increased progressively from 36,245 tons in 1921-22 to 119,504 tons in 1924-25, amounted in the year under review to no fewer than 179,679 tons, a figure which exceeds the quantity shipped in 1913-14 by as much as 104,993 tons or 140 per cent. This notable expansion serves to emphasise the growing importance of Karachi as a cotton exporting port. The expansion was mainly due to the opening of a steamer service with Japan as a result of which large direct shipments are now made to that country instead of *via* Bombay. Other favourable conditions obtaining at this port, especially the better shipping facilities, have also attracted more business and some Indian firms of standing in Bombay have opened branches here. It is interesting to note that a good deal of Rajputana cotton which was formerly shipped *via* Bombay now comes to Karachi for shipment. The value of shipments increased from Rs. 1,860·32 lakhs to Rs. 2,210·95 lakhs, or an increase of only 19 per cent. as compared with the expansion of 50 per cent. in the volume of exports. This disparity in the percentage increase of the value and volume of business was due to a heavy drop in world prices in sympathy with the American market. Notwithstanding this heavy reduction, raw cotton contributed as much as 63 per cent. to the total value of the export trade of the port during the year. Japan, which purchased only 2,452 tons in the pre-war year, took 26,675 tons valued at Rs. 418·37 lakhs in 1924-25, and shipments during the year under report were no less than 57,637 tons valued at Rs. 665·93 lakhs, showing an increase of 116 per cent. in quantity and 59 per cent. in value over last year's figures which were also a record. Italy, the biggest purchaser last year, came next with a total purchase of 34,255 tons which was about the same as last year.

Raw wool.—Heavy purchases were made by dealers in the United Kingdom in 1924-25 in anticipation of a shortage in future supplies and very high prices were paid, but it proved difficult to pass the high-priced goods into consumption, except at considerable losses. In consequence, the demand during the year under review was greatly curtailed and values slumped appreciably. The prices realised at the sales in the first half of the year were tolerably good, but those held in the second half resulted in heavy losses. Shipments during the year, which amounted to 23,705,301 lbs. valued at Rs. 202·68 lakhs showed a decrease of 15 per cent. in quantity and of 16 per cent. in value. The United Kingdom, the chief purchaser, absorbed only 20,641,806 lbs. as compared with 25,543,739 lbs. Shipments to

the United States of America, on the other hand, increased by 830,372 lbs. to 2,852,593 lbs.

Seeds.—The export trade in seeds again suffered a setback to the extent of 33 per cent. in quantity and of 43 per cent. in value which occurred almost wholly under rapeseed.

Exports of rapeseed, the chief item in the oilseed trade, again contracted considerably by 115,658 tons or 58 per cent. in quantity and by Rs. 262·42 lakhs or 57 per cent. in value. All the principal countries took smaller quantities.

Among other seeds, the development in the export trade in cotton seed is worthy of note. During the year under report there was a keen demand from the United Kingdom and shipments reached the high figure of 71,621 tons valued at Rs. 82·04 lakhs, showing an increase of 108 per cent. in quantity and 106 per cent. in value as compared with the previous year.

Hides and Skins, Raw.—Shipments of raw hides maintained the level attained in the previous year but the business done did not prove as remunerative as in that year, for while the total quantity rose from 1,975 to 2,185 tons, the value decreased by Rs. 70,019 to Rs. 24·67 lakhs. A further improvement was recorded in the business done in raw skins during the year under review the quantity exported having advanced by 34 per cent. and the value by 33 per cent.

Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.—The aggregate value of the articles included under this class declined from Rs. 31·33 lakhs to Rs. 28 lakhs or by 11 per cent. The decrease occurred mainly in exports of tanned or dressed skins, the value of which fell away from Rs. 12·02 lakhs to Rs. 8·81 lakhs as a result of a reduced demand for goat skins by the United Kingdom.

Foreign merchandise re-exported.—The total value of the articles of foreign merchandise re-exported to foreign countries declined from Rs. 241·24 lakhs to Rs. 186·44 lakhs or by 23 per cent. The decrease occurred chiefly under sugar, dried fruits, raw wool, woollen manufactures, and cotton piece-goods. The re-export trade in tanned skins consisted chiefly of shipments of fur skins to the United Kingdom, the value of which decreased by Rs. 6·44 lakhs to Rs. 10·45 lakhs.

COASTING TRADE

The aggregate value of the coasting trade of the Province of Sind amounted to Rs. 1,820·60 lakhs, showing a decrease of Rs. 315·56 lakhs or 15 per cent. as compared with the previous year.

SUBORDINATE PORTS

Keti Bandar and Sirganda.—The total value of the entire trade of these ports which is confined to trade with coast ports again decreased from Rs. 17·72 lakhs to Rs. 14·25 lakhs to which Keti Bandar contributed 57 per cent. and Sirganda 43 per cent. Rice is the chief trade of both these ports.

SHIPPING

Foreign trade.—The total number of vessels, steam and sailing, engaged in the foreign trade declined from 1,443 to 1,129 and the total tonnage from 2,895,073 to 1,850,089 tons. The decrease was due entirely to the reduction in the number of steam vessels from 1,007 to 636 and the consequent drop in the tonnage by 1,048,666 tons to 1,805,077 tons. The average tonnage per steamer improved slightly from 2,834 tons to 2,838 tons. Only 516 steamers flying the British flag called at the port as against 639 in the previous year, the decrease of 123 vessels being due mainly to the slump in the export trade in wheat. The considerable falling off in shipments of wheat and rape-seed also accounted for the decline in the number of Italian ships from 71 to 49. There was, on the other hand, an increase in the number of American vessels from 11 to 21 which was mainly due to an expansion in the import trade with the United States of America and partly to larger receipts of kerosene oil. Eleven Japanese vessels visited the port as against 3 last year, the larger number being required to deal with the heavy exports of cotton.

Coasting trade.—Though the total number of steamers employed in the coasting trade increased by 33 to 1,064, their tonnage declined by 15,793 to 2,514,396.

Freight.—Owing to the general trade depression freights were at a comparatively low level during the year. The rates for wheat and rape-seed, which stood at 21*s.* 6*d.* and 20*s.* in April declined gradually from the second week of May and reached 16*s.* and 15*s.*, respectively, in July. A rise, however, soon followed and the succeeding three months witnessed a recovery to the levels prevailing in April. Another fall began in December, however, and easier rates prevailed in the last four months of the year, the quotations on the 31st March being 15*s.* 6*d.* for wheat and 14*s.* 6*d.* for rape-seed.

ADEN

The total value of the private sea-borne and land trade decreased from Rs. 16 crores 73 lakhs to Rs. 16 crores 50 lakhs. The sea-borne trade alone showed a decrease of nearly 12 lakhs. The value of the import trade, exclusive of treasure, decreased

from Rs. 7 crores 63 lakhs to Rs. 7 crores 18 lakhs. The value of articles of food, drink and tobacco decreased by Rs. 33½ lakhs, coffee, ghee, sugar, tobacco unmanufactured and cigarettes being mainly responsible for the decrease. Increases were noticed in grain and pulse, dates, spices and tea.

The total value of raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured decreased from Rs. 1 crore 83 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore 75½ lakhs. Coal decreased in quantity by 4,082 tons due to smaller consignments of Welsh coal, but coal from South Africa increased. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured decreased by Rs. 3¼ lakhs to Rs. 3 crores 23 lakhs, the decrease being noticeable under apparel, chemicals, drugs and medicines chiefly in patent medicines and other sorts, dyeing substances—chiefly in indigo, paints and colours, glassware, earthenware, metals, paper and paste boards. The value of cotton goods decreased by Rs. 7½ lakhs.

The value of the export trade, exclusive of treasure, amounted to Rs. 5 crores 87½ lakhs as against Rs. 6 crores 23½ lakhs in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 36 lakhs. The export of articles of food, drink and tobacco decreased in value from Rs. 2 crores 50 lakhs to Rs. 2 crores 11 lakhs. The chief decreases were noticed under coffee, ghee, salt, sugar, tobacco unmanufactured and cigarettes ; while the increases were under grain and pulse, rice, jowari, wheat flour, dried fruits and vegetables and spices. Raw materials and produce increased by Rs. 8 lakhs but articles wholly or mainly manufactured decreased by Rs. 6 lakhs.

The total imports of treasure increased by Rs. 47¼ lakhs and of exports by Rs. 21⅓ lakhs.

The total sea-borne trade, excluding treasure, amounted to Rs. 13 crores 6 lakhs of which India's share was nearly Rs. 2 crores.

The number of vessels that entered the port was the same as last year, *viz.* 1,315, but the tonnage increased from 4,255,233 to 4,356,326.

SHIPPING OFFICES

In addition to the shipping, paying off and discharging of ships' crews, the Shipping Office has a variety of miscellaneous duties to perform. These include the settlement of disputes between ship-masters and seamen, the administration of the estates of deceased seamen of the Mercantile Marine, the disposal of distressed British and Indian seamen and the inspection of rations and water provided for the crews. The settlement

of claims of seamen or their dependants in case of accident or death and the receipt and disposal of dead seamen's effects and the registration of seamen also come within the scope of the Shipping Master.

During the year under report the Bombay Shipping Office signed on 34,880 seamen of many nationalities and discharged 34,919. About 10,000 Goanese were signed and discharged, almost all in the Stewards Department. 21,500 other Indians were signed and 22,000 discharged. Deck hands were both Hindus and Muhammadans, but those in the engine room were exclusively Muhammadans. The total expenditure was about Rs. 71,000.

The Karachi Shipping Office shipped 592 seamen and discharged 801. The expenditure was Rs. 1,440.

The Aden Shipping Office engaged and discharged 2,487 seamen and 49 distressed seamen were repatriated. The Shipping fees received and credited to Government amounted to Rs. 6,900 against Rs. 6,700 in the preceding year.

CHAPTER VII

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

THE Public Works Department has long been an important feature of the British administration in India. Its history dates from 1854 when it first came to be organised on a definite basis in succession to the old military boards, constituted mainly for the carrying out of military works.

For administrative purposes the work of the Department is divided into two sections : (*i*) Roads and Buildings and (*ii*) Irrigation.

During the year under review the Roads and Buildings Branch of the Public Works Department of the Presidency executed works, the total expenditure on which was Rs. 2 crores and 15 lakhs. Part of the work was done for central services and included Customs and Salt Rs. 1½ and 1¼ lakhs respectively, Post Offices and Telegraphs Rs. 4½ lakhs, Military works Rs. 4¼ lakhs and Archæological three-quarters of a lakh.

On the Provincial services the works under General Administration, *i.e.*, Residences for Heads of Provinces, Commissioners and District Officers, etc., amounted to nearly Rs. 12½ lakhs. Several works in connection with the Government House, Malabar Point, and bungalows for civil officers at Kopri, Thana, were completed during the year, while the construction of two Kacheries and Mahal buildings in the Presidency and a new Government Central Press at Charni Road, Bombay, were in progress.

Under Administration of Justice, the works cost over Rs. 22½ lakhs and under Jails and Convict Settlements over Rs. 12½ lakhs. Several works in connection with the Judicial buildings at Nadiad, Poona, Karachi and Hyderabad were in progress. The new jail for undertrial prisoners and the new civil jail for 40 prisoners, both at Arthur Road, Bombay, were completed and handed over to the Jail authorities.

The expenditure under the head "Police" was over Rs. 15 lakhs, chiefly in connection with the police accommodation schemes and additions and alterations to the existing Police Lines in Bombay and mofussil.

Under "Medical" nearly Rs. 11¼ lakhs were spent, over Rs. 9 lakhs being on new works. The King Edward Memorial Hospitals at Parel, Bombay, and at Sholapur, the X-ray room

BORING OPERATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE SANITARY ENGINEER

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and additional nurses' quarters in the St. George's Hospital, Bombay, and two dispensary buildings in the Mofussil were completed during the year.

Over Rs. 5 lakhs were spent under "Education" on new works and repairs to colleges, secondary and primary schools.

Central Workshops, Dapuri.—The workshop has made considerable progress in spite of a period of trade depression and keen competition in the market. The gross turn-over was nearly Rs. 3 lakhs. Forty apprentices were taught trades and in addition instruction in vernacular was given by the school master. They were also given technical training in Mechanical Engineering and this work was entrusted in turn to graduates in Mechanical Engineering from the Engineering College. Two such graduates have been admitted for their practical training and they are proving very useful.

ARCHITECTURAL

Designs and sketch plans were prepared for Government works in Bombay and the mofussil. In regard to public or institutional buildings designs were made for King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, Parel, Bombay, Ismail College, Andheri, Sir J. J. Hospital reconstruction scheme, Bombay, Administration and X-ray Block, G. T. Hospital, Bombay, Shri Shivaji Memorial at Raigarh and Central Hospital, Shikarpur.

ELECTRICAL

An expenditure of Rs. 4¼ lakhs was incurred on Electrical Works during the year, important installations being provided in the King Edward Memorial Hospitals, Sholapur and Bombay, Government Buildings at Kopri, Thana, Police Accommodation Scheme, Naigaum, Bombay, and Cantonment Buildings at Ahmedabad.

COMMUNICATIONS

Expenditure under this head amounted to nearly Rs. 55 lakhs of which nearly 33 lakhs were spent on repairs and 22 lakhs on new works and on additions and alterations to existing works.

ARBORICULTURE

Nurseries were maintained at various places and the planting, watering and protection of road-side trees continued to receive careful attention. About 19,437 trees were planted during the year along Provincial and Local Fund roads in charge of this Department.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rs. 8¼ lakhs were spent on various water supply and drainage schemes. Improvements to water supply at Pandharpur, Poona Cantonment, Kapadwanj, Sanand, Dholka, Matheran, Uran, Vita, Sholapur and Lonavla and certain drainage works at Sholapur, Dhulia, Kapadwanj, Dharwar and Poona were carried out during the year.

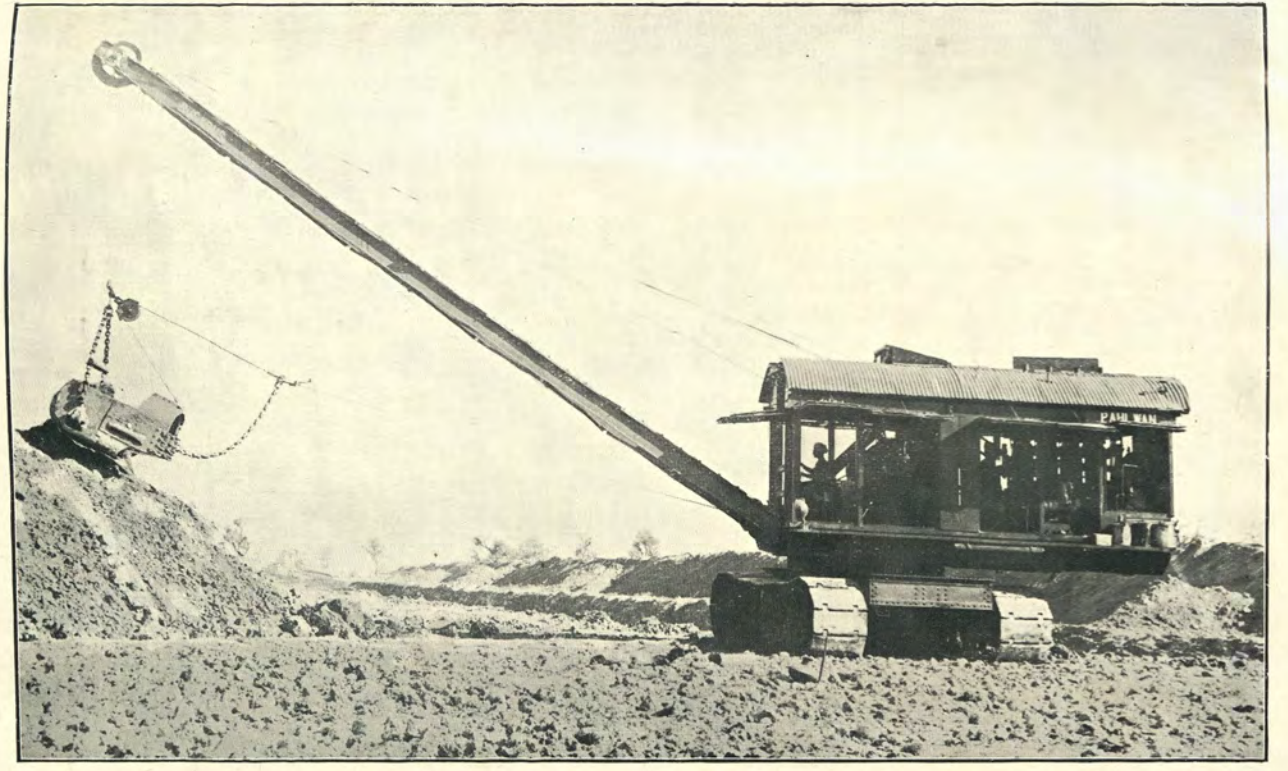
Boring operations for water were conducted at Aden, Karachi (Drigh road), Dhandhuka, Gedia, Jakshi, Sarkhej, Vinzuwada (Ahmedabad Division), Matheran and Lonavla.

IRRIGATION

GENERAL

The irrigation works in charge of the Public Works Department are divided into two distinct spheres, (1) Sind and (2) Deccan and Gujarat. In Sind the rainfall is usually negligible and the cultivation depends almost entirely on canal irrigation. The canal systems in Sind are quite different from those in the Deccan. They are mostly very large and with the exception of a few perennial ones carry their supplies only during the period of inundation which lasts for about four months, *i.e.*, June to September. For the remaining portion of the year most of the canals do not flow and irrigation is obtained by means of wells. When the Lloyd Barrage Scheme is completed, however, it will be possible to feed the majority of these canals all the year round. This project which is estimated to cost Rs. 18·35 crores is under construction. It consists of a barrage across the Indus below the gorge at Sukkur, three canals on the right and four on the left bank each with a separate head regulator. The barrage will under a system of scientific control give the necessary supply to each canal no matter how low the level of the water in the river may be.

Irrigation conditions in the Deccan and Gujarat differ considerably from those in Sind. In this part of the country rainfall is necessary for agricultural operations. The tanks and canals provide irrigation to more valuable crops like sugarcane and they are a source of water-supply when the rainfall is deficient or irregular. Of the two large irrigation projects, *viz.*, the Nira Right Bank Canal and the Pravara River Project started in 1912 and 1911 respectively, the latter is practically completed and the former is nearing completion. As the storage provided by the Lloyd dam at Bhatgar for the Nira Right and Left Bank Canals will not suffice for the full development of irrigation in the Nira



SUKKUR BARRAGE SCHEME—A DRAGLINE EXCAVATOR WORKING ON THE KHIPRO CANAL

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Valley a complete scheme which provides for widening and remodelling the Nira Left Bank Canal and for building a new dam at Vir to supplement the supply from the Bhatgar dam has been sanctioned. The additional works will cost Rs. 135·8 lakhs. The remodelling of the Left Bank Canal has already been put in hand. These projects will irrigate certain lands which are most adversely affected by precarious rainfall.

The expenditure on all irrigation works in the Presidency during the year 1925-26 was Rs. 324½ lakhs, showing an increase of Rs. 81 lakhs over that of the previous year. Of this Rs. 267 lakhs were spent in Sind and the balance in the Deccan and Gujarat.

The amount spent on works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept was Rs. 305 lakhs. The total receipts on these works amounted to Rs. 100½ lakhs as against Rs. 111 lakhs of the previous year. The area irrigated was 3,515,000 acres, a decrease of 274,000 acres as compared with the average of the previous three years. The decrease was in Sind where the area irrigated fell from 3,512,000 to 3,216,000 acres. The area irrigated in the Deccan and Gujarat showed an increase of nearly 22,000 acres over the average of 277,000 acres.

For the remaining works capital accounts are not kept and they are financed from ordinary revenues. The area under irrigation on these works showed a decrease of 7,000 acres as compared with the average, *viz.* 243,000 acres. These works did not yield any net revenue as the expenditure during 1925-26, *viz.*, Rs. 33½ lakhs, exceeded the receipts by Rs. 16½ lakhs.

SIND

The inundation of 1925 was, on the whole, a moderate one. The fair irrigating level of 13 feet on the Bukkur gauge was first reached on the 7th July and remained at or above that level for 32 days. On the Kotri gauge the fair irrigating level of 17 feet was first recorded on 27th June and the level was maintained for 76 days. The rainfall in the Indus Right Bank Circle was about the average but in the Left Bank Circle it was very scanty.

LLOYD BARRAGE AND CANALS CONSTRUCTION

The scheme consists of the construction of a barrage or weir across the Indus three miles below the gorge at Sukkur, three canals on the right and four on the left bank, and is divided into five Circles of superintendence with a Chief Engineer at the head.

As regards the construction of the barrage, the year was devoted to the further development of all the preliminary works, construction of buildings, erection and housing of special plant and machinery, opening of stone quarries, erection and launching of barges and pontoons for the river fleet, installation and testing of electric power plant and construction of deep water wharves on either bank of the river.

The canal circles were occupied in making detailed surveys, levelling, aligning and designing of canals, acquisition of land, excavation of canals both by dragline machines and manual labour and in the preparation of detailed plans and estimates for earthwork and buildings.

Lloyd Barrage Circle.—Practically all land required has been acquired and occupied. Two townships, one on either bank of the river, have been constructed to facilitate the execution of the works, the one on the right bank being larger than that on the left. They provide accommodation for officers, subordinates, menials, etc., close to the site of the works. Two large blocks of office buildings on the right bank to accommodate all officers who have their head-quarters at Sukkur and a smaller block of offices for Sub-divisional officers on the left bank are in course of construction. A large electric generating station has been erected with six Diesel engine alternator sets, with the necessary switch boards, oil storage and cooling plants to provide electric energy for running the plant to be used on the construction of the barrage and for workshops. Three quarries have been opened each with its own power plant for compressed air and necessary pneumatic tools, workshops, store-shed, dispensary, works water supply and housing accommodation for the subordinate staff and labour. All the quarries are connected to the works area by broad gauge track and stone for building, lime burning, etc., is loaded into trucks at the quarries and brought to site of works, kilns, etc., as required. On each bank of the river a well equipped workshop with electric power has been erected and fitted for repairs and maintenance of the plant used in construction. For loading the barges with the various materials used on construction each bank is being provided with a wharf. The wharves will carry a double track of broad gauge railway connecting to the works railway. The two dredgers required for excavation of foundations in the river have arrived at Sukkur and the pontoons, floating pipe lines, etc., required in connection therewith have been completed.

North-Western and Western Circles.—The best and cheapest alignments of the North-Western Perennial and Dadu

FLOATING PIPE LINE FOR DREDGERS IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION AT SUKKUR

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canals were finally settled. The work of collecting details for the final design of the Central Rice Canal was completed. Satisfactory progress was made with the acquisition of land and construction of buildings. The excavation of earthwork by dragline machines and manual labour progressed satisfactorily. The North-Western Perennial Canal was excavated in a length of twelve miles and a start has been made on the Central Rice Canal and also on the Shahdadkot Branch. Excavation of the Warah Branch, the Dadu Canal and the Johi Branch is in progress. The total quantity of earthwork done in the North-Western and Western Circles during the period under review approximated 13 crores cubic feet.

Rohri Canal Circle.—Most of the preliminary work was finished and surveys of main canal, branches, distributaries and minors were completed. A very large area of land was demarcated and land was acquired. Good progress was made with the excavation of the main Rohri Canal and the Khairpur Feeder East. Excavation of the Nasir Branch was taken in hand. The total excavation by the large and intermediate machines amounted to $8\frac{1}{2}$ crores cubic feet. In addition to the work done by machines some excavation work on this Branch and on the Hyderabad and the Hala Branches was carried out by manual labour. Inspection paths along channels were made and the fixing of field and boundary stones was in progress.

Eastern Nara Circle.—The surveying and levelling of distributaries of the Khipro, the Hiral and the Mithrao were carried out. The preliminary work in connection with regrading and widening the Thar Canal was completed. The project for remodelling the Mithrao Canal was proceeded with. Good progress was made with the construction of containing banks above the Jamrao head and also from the Jamrao head to the Makhi weir. Inspection paths along the Nara right up to the Jamrao head were made. The land acquired for the Khipro Canal up to its 30th mile, Nabisar, Naokot and Samarjo branches was taken over and nicked out and that required for the remaining lengths was notified. Satisfactory progress was made with the excavation of earthwork of the Khipro Canal. The total quantity of earthwork done in this Circle was 6 crores cubic feet. Sub-soil water level observations of the Jamrao and Mithrao tracts were carried out. Gauges were fixed along the Eastern Nara to observe daily readings.

DECCAN AND GUJARAT

NORTHERN CIRCLE

The Hathmati and Khari Cut is the only important canal system in this Circle; the remaining works are small tanks dependent upon local rains. The area irrigated on the system was about 3,000 acres. Owing to deficient rainfall during the year the Wangroli, Savli and Sahiat tanks filled only partially while the Tranza-Nagramma remained empty. The total area irrigated on these tanks was 2,500 acres. The drainage channels were maintained in good order and the bunds which protect the cultivated lands from the inroads of the sea worked satisfactorily.

CENTRAL CIRCLE

The Ekruk tank, the Jamda Canals and the Krishna Canal are the most important irrigation works in this Circle. Besides providing water for irrigation the Ekruk tank supplies the demands of the town of Sholapur, the Mills and the G. I. P. Railway. The question whether this tank with possible improvements and with cane cultivation restricted or done away with altogether will suffice for the agricultural and non-agricultural interests or whether an additional storage reservoir will be necessary to supplement the water supply is under consideration. The sixteen irrigation works in this Circle for which capital and revenue accounts are kept irrigated about 35,000 acres against 34,000 acres in the previous year.

DECCAN IRRIGATION CIRCLE

The most important irrigation works of the Presidency proper are in this Circle.

The Nira Left Bank Canal is one of the pioneer irrigation works in the Deccan, which protects a tract subject to extremely precarious rainfall in the Poona District. The canal though designed as a "protective" work is now the best paying of all the major canals in the Circle showing a return of 8 per cent. on the capital invested. The canal is 100 miles long and is fed by Lake Whiting, a reservoir constructed on the Yelwandi river at Bhatgar some 30 miles south of Poona. The canal system irrigated about 83,000 acres during the year.

The Mutha Canals system is another old work in the Deccan. It consists of a storage reservoir at Khadakvasla and the Mutha Right and Left Bank Canals. The water of the lake is used for supplying drinking water to Poona and for irrigation.

WATER WORKS SERVICE RESERVOIR AT WANOWRIE, POONA,
CONSTRUCTED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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The system irrigated about 25,000 acres during the year. As the existing storage is insufficient to meet the increasing demand for water both for domestic and irrigational purposes investigations to ascertain the best means of increasing the supply have been taken in hand.

The Mhaswad tank is formed by an earthen dam across the Mán river. It has a storage capacity of 2,600 million cubic feet. Though the capacity is considerable the supply of water is not very reliable. It irrigated 6,300 acres.

The Godavari Canals.—This is the first of the important irrigation works undertaken in the Central Deccan for the protection of areas liable to famine. It was completed in 1915-16 at a cost of a little over one crore of rupees. The system consists of (1) a storage reservoir called Lake Beale on the Darna river, (2) a pick-up-weir at Nandur Madmeshwar on the Godavari and (3) the Godavari Right and Left Bank Canals, 69 and 48 miles long respectively. The Right Bank Canal serves the northern tracts of the Ahmednagar District and the Left Bank Canal irrigates lands in the south of the Nasik District and the north of the Ahmednagar District. Sugarcane cultivation is steadily advancing on these canals. The area irrigated by the system was over 40,000 acres of which 7,500 were under sugarcane. The population in the canal tract is increasing and villages continue to grow into busy towns. The necessity for additional storage has been felt and preliminary investigations are being made.

The Girna and the Kadwa River Works are two small irrigation systems in the Nasik Collectorate. They irrigated 14,000 acres.

The Pravara River Works project has been practically completed at a cost of Rs. 1½ crores. It comprises (1) a storage reservoir called Lake Arthur Hill on the Pravara River at Bhandardara 29 miles by road from Igatpuri, (2) a pick-up weir at Ojhar and (3) two canals, the Pravara Right and Left Bank Canals 33 and 48 miles long, respectively. The system irrigates lands in the Sangamner, Kopargaon, Rahuri and Newasa talukas of the Ahmednagar Collectorate. The Bhandardara dam, which is the highest in India, has just been completed and the canals are now in full operation. Irrigation in the Pravara area has increased very rapidly and the total area irrigated during the year was over 49,000 acres of which about 9,000 acres were under sugarcane.

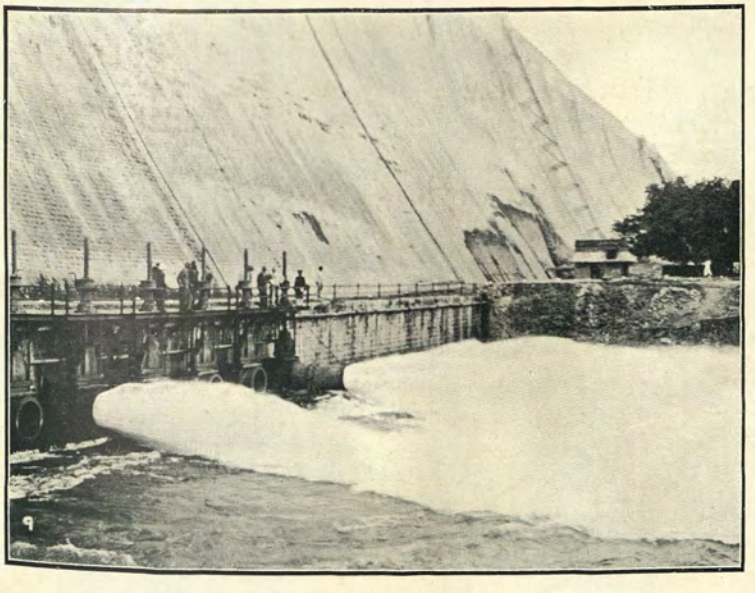
The Nira Right Bank Canal.—This irrigation system will be by far the largest in the Bombay Deccan. The project

comprises the construction of a very large masonry dam known as the Lloyd dam which replaces the old Bhatgar dam a smaller structure constructed some 40 years ago. The new lake will supply both the old Left Bank Canal which is already in full operation and the new Right Bank Canal under construction. The Right Bank Canal will end near Mohod in the Sholapur Collectorate and will be about 108 miles long. The dam will be completed in the year 1926-27 by which time the first 90 miles of the canal will also be approaching completion. In cubic contents the dam is the largest so far constructed in the world being some 20 per cent. larger in this respect than the Assouan dam in Egypt. As the storage of 24,200 million cubic feet impounded by the Lloyd dam will not be sufficient for the requirements of the two canals at full development a scheme for widening and remodelling the Left Bank Canal and building a new dam at Vir to supplement the supply from Bhatgar has been sanctioned. The remodelling of the Left Bank Canal has already been put in hand so as to take full advantage of the storage at Bhatgar during the development of irrigation on the Right Bank Canal.

Other small irrigation works.—These include numerous bandharas or weirs built across small streams to raise the level of water sufficiently high to enable it to command the lands to be irrigated. In all there are about 300 of these small works in the Nasik Collectorate and a large number also exist in West Khandesh. The supply of water from these bandharas was inadequate and cultivation suffered. A sum of Rs. 33,000 was spent on extensions and improvements and repairs of these works.

Investigation work.—Hand in hand with the extension of the canals and the completion of the big storage works, the Irrigation Department has carried out very extensive experimental and research work, from which already valuable results have been obtained. Particular attention has been paid to finding out the best way of preventing damage to land by water-logging and salt efflorescence and of reclaiming land so damaged. It has been proved that properly designed drainage channels will not only prevent damage to land from water-logging and salt, but will allow of land hitherto useless for cultivation being brought into a fit state to grow valuable crops. Such work, however, costs money, and it is hoped that cultivators and land-owners will in time realise the importance of such measures and will come forward to assist Government in finding funds for these drainage schemes. Meanwhile, Government have

VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
TO THE LLOYD DAM



LLOYD DAM AT BHATGAR NEAR POONA

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LIBRARY

themselves made a start, and it is hoped to extend these operations to other areas and so increase the total area of good culturable land.

The Irrigation Department is also working steadily towards improved methods of distribution and use of irrigation water, and when these methods are brought into general use and the cultivators have learnt the benefits of them, it is confidently anticipated that even greater areas will be cultivated from the storage lakes than is possible with the present methods.

Another branch of irrigation research in which great strides have been made in the Deccan is the survey and selection of the most suitable soils for the different types of crops.

SOUTHERN CIRCLE

The Gokak Canal is the only important irrigation system in this Circle. The system consists of a weir across the Ghataprabha river at Dhupdal in the Belgaum District and 16 miles of main and branch canals. The Dhupdal weir has been provided with a temporary moveable crest of teak planks 4 feet high. By this means it is now possible to conserve much more water at the beginning of the cold weather than before and thus to bring larger areas under rabi cultivation. The system supplies water to the Cotton Mills at Gokak, the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company and for irrigation. The total area irrigated was about 12,000 acres.

RAILWAYS

The railway lines in the Bombay Presidency are not administered by the Government of Bombay but are directly controlled by the Government of India, Railway Department, Railway Board. The Railway Board has also the control of railway lines in the Indian States within the Bombay Presidency.

No new lines were opened for traffic, during the year under review. The quadruple lines between Bandra and Borivli on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway were opened for goods traffic during the year.

The works of constructing the Pandharpur-Miraj extension and the Hotgi-Sholapur Railway were in progress.

Seven surveys were either completed or in progress.

CHAPTER VIII

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL RELIEF

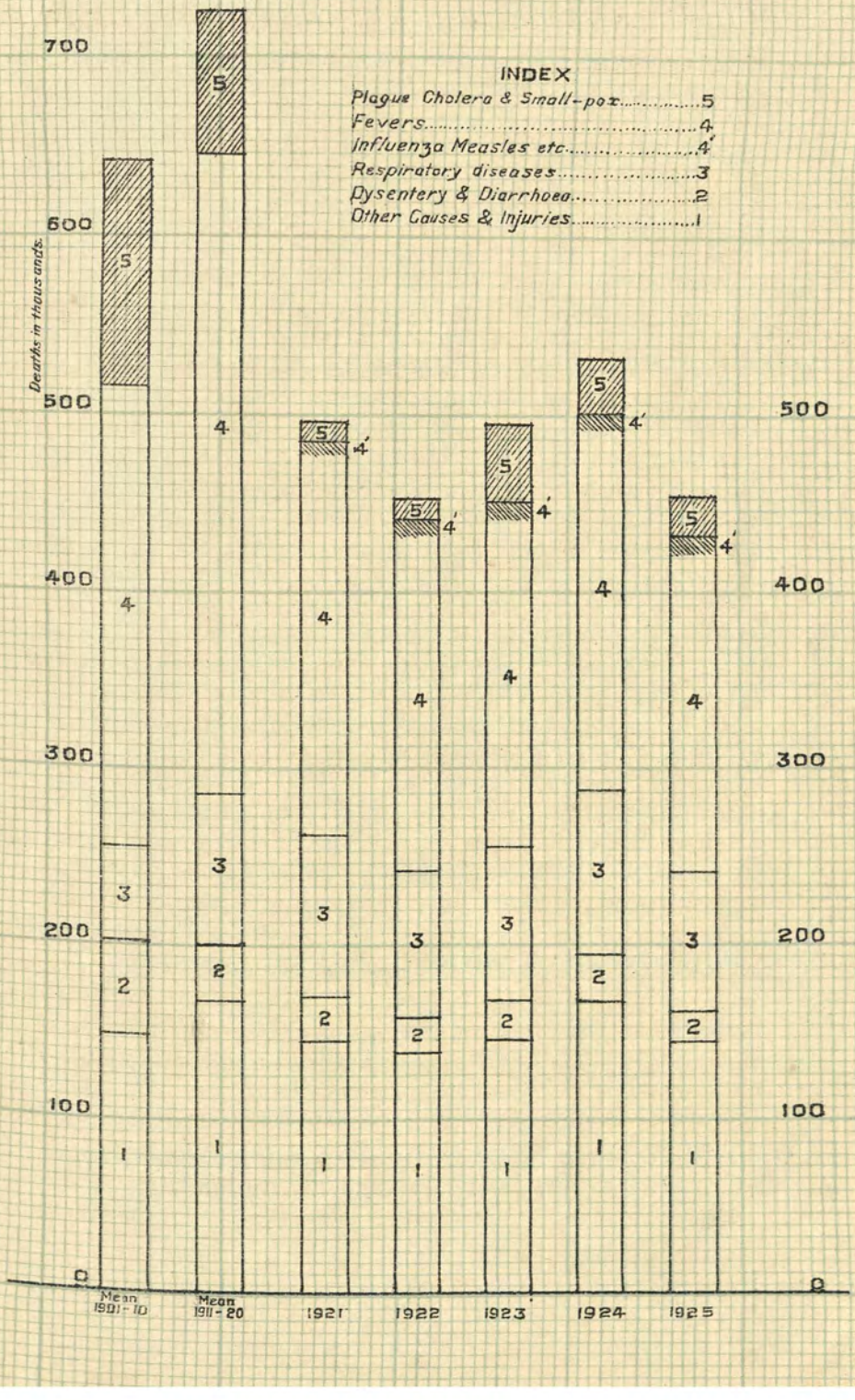
THE total death figure showed that, with the exception of 1922, the year 1925 was the healthiest since 1887. A fall in the actual number of deaths occurred under practically all the separate major headings of causes of death. Thus, comparing the figures with those of the preceding year "intestinal diseases" show a reduction of 28 per cent., "fevers" 14 per cent., "other causes" 12 per cent. and "respiratory diseases" 9 per cent., while the chief epidemic diseases—cholera, small-pox, plague and influenza combined show a reduction of 37 per cent.

The only major head which shows a slight increase over last year is plague. But for this, the total death-rate would have been lower even than in 1922. The most noticeable feature of the year was the almost complete absence of cholera, only 57 deaths having occurred throughout the Presidency. There was also a satisfactory drop in the figures for respiratory diseases, dysentery and diarrhœa, and "other causes"—all of which showed an upward tendency in 1924.

Births.—The number of registered births was 664,384 showing a decrease of 17,937 over the figure of 1924 but an increase of 14,406 on the decennial mean figure. The birth-rate for the Presidency as a whole was 34·66 against 35·60 during the previous year. For the Presidency proper, excluding Bombay City and Sind, the rate was 39·12 against 39·91 and for the Province of Sind 20·58 against 22·05 in 1924. For rural areas the birth-rate was 36·52 and for urban areas 27·00. Of the districts, the highest birth-rate was recorded in West Khandesh (50·50) and the lowest (15·40) in Hyderabad District. Six districts in the Presidency returned a birth-rate of 40 or more per mille of population, *viz.*, Sholapur (41·52), Panch Mahals (41·74), Broach (44·86), Nasik (44·89), Ahmednagar (46·95) and East Khandesh (49·43). Of the talukas, pethas and mahals, the highest birth-rate was again in Pathardi in the Ahmednagar District (73·64), whereas in South Salsette the figure was only (18·36) and in Poona City (16·12). The births recorded in Bombay City were 19,944 which is 1,513 less than in the previous year and equivalent to a birth-rate of 17·36 or a decrease of 1·32. Of the registered births 346,373 were males

Chart I

DEATHS IN 1925 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.



and 318,011 females equal to ratios of 18·07 and 16·59 per mille of population.

Deaths.—A remarkably low mortality was recorded during the year under report, the lowest but one in fact since 1887. The total number of deaths registered was 453,563 as compared with 529,576 in 1924. The recorded death-rate for the whole Presidency worked out to 23·66, the death-rate for rural and urban areas for the Presidency as a whole being 22·84 and 27·04 respectively. The highest death-rate was returned by Kanara (30·22) and the lowest by Bombay Suburban (16·58).

Infant Mortality.—There were 107,634 deaths among infants under twelve months, a ratio of 162·01 per 1,000 registered births against 191·17 in 1924. The improvement in these figures, which suffered a slight set back during 1924 after showing steady progress for 1918 onwards, is thus renewed. It affects both sexes, at all age periods, and in urban as well as rural districts. Mortality amongst infants is greatest in the first month of life. "Although the figures show a steady improvement," says the Director of Public Health in his annual report for 1925, "the death-rate among infants is still very high." Much is being done, however, to remove the causes due to ignorance of the proper conduct of maternity cases and the management of infants. The Baby shows held throughout the Presidency and the activities of the recently constituted Welfare Societies have focussed attention on this important problem and started a movement which should help the infants over the first dangerous months of life. The scheme for the training of village dais was proceeded with under the patronage of Lady Wilson. In Bombay City registered deaths amounted to 31,654 as against 38,417 in 1924. The number of infantile deaths was 7,161 or a ratio of 359·05 per 1,000 registered births as against a rate of 423·17 in 1924. The chief causes of death shown in the returns were fevers, dysentery and diarrhœa, and respiratory diseases—pneumonia and phthisis contributing a large number of deaths.

Some figures from the Annual Sanitary Report for 1925 are given below :—

Among the civil European population of 19,247,—278 births and 210 deaths were recorded as against 290 and 274 respectively in 1924. The calculated birth-rate per mille for 1925 was 14·44 and the death-rate 10·91.

Anglo-Indians numbered 10,221 and 227 births and 209 deaths were registered against 308 and 242 respectively in 1924. The

birth and death ratios per mille were 22·21 and 20·44 respectively in 1925.

Among the civil Indian population of 19,165,614,—664,384 births were registered, showing a decrease of 17,937 over the figure for 1924 but an increase of 14,406 over the decennial mean figure—649,978. The birth-rate for the year for the Presidency as a whole was 34·66 against 35·60 in 1924. For the Presidency proper excluding Bombay City and Sind, the rate was 39·12 against 39·91 in 1924 and for the Province of Sind 20·58 against 22·05 in 1924. The rates recorded in other parts of India for the last two years are given below and it will be seen that a reduction in birth-rate was general throughout India :—

	1925	1924
Bengal	29·60	29·45
Madras	33·71	34·89
Assam	29·08	31·04
Burma	25·38	27·40
Bihar and Orissa	35·63	35·07
United Provinces	32·73	34·72
Punjab	40·06	40·05
Central Provinces	43·90	44·18

For every 100 females 108·92 males were born. Still-births numbered 10,862 against 11,141 in 1924. The total number of deaths registered was 453,563 as compared with 529,576 in 1924, 498,609 the quinquennial and 681,749 the decennial mean. 108·70 males died for every 100 females. The recorded death-rate for the whole Presidency works out to 23·66. The death-rate in 1924 was 27·63, the quinquennial mean being 26·36 while the decennial mean was 35·26. For other parts of India the death-rates recorded were as follow :—

	1925		1925
Madras ..	24·40	Bihar and Orissa ..	23·69
Bengal ..	24·90	Punjab ..	29·97
Assam ..	22·52	United Provinces .	24·78
Burma ..	18·75	Central Provinces .	27·27

As in the case of the fall in the birth-rate, the improvement in the death-rate was general throughout India.

The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate by 11·00 per mille. The infant mortality rate for the Presidency was 162 per 1,000 registered births as against 191 in 1924. The male and female rates were 168 and 156, respectively, as compared with 199 and 183 in the previous year.

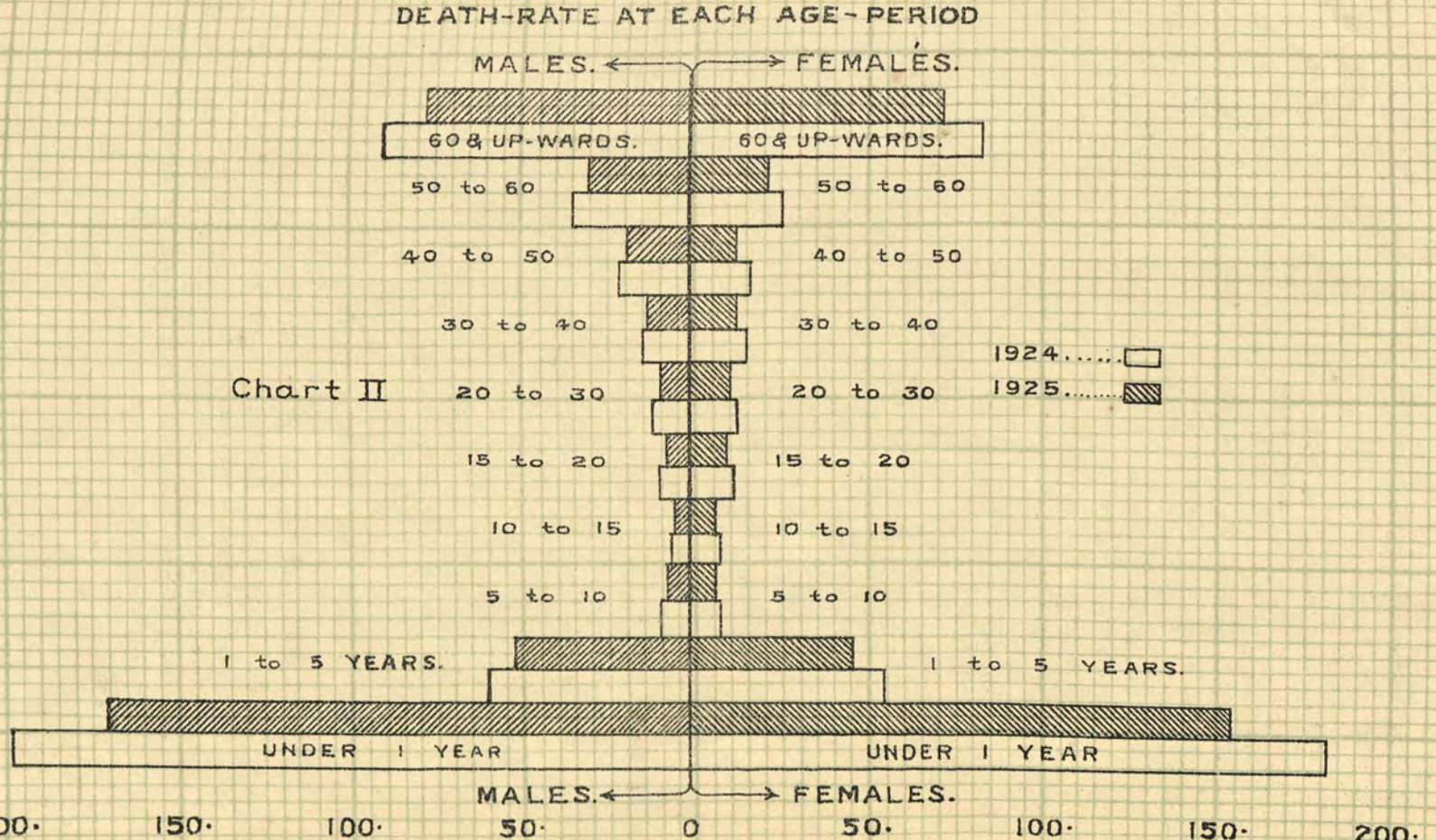

DEATH-RATE AT EACH AGE-PERIOD
MALES.
FEMALES.
60 & UP-WARDS.
60 & UP-WARDS.
50 to 60
50 to 60
40 to 50
40 to 50
30 to 40
30 to 40
20 to 30
20 to 30
15 to 20
15 to 20
10 to 15
10 to 15
5 to 10
5 to 10
1 to 5 YEARS.
1 to 5 YEARS.
UNDER 1 YEAR
UNDER 1 YEAR
1924.....
1925.....
MALES.
FEMALES.
200·
150·
100·
50·
0
50·
100·
150·
200·

Chart II

In Bombay City the birth and death rates were 17·36 and 27·55, the infant mortality rate being 3·59 compared with 4·23 in 1924.

The male and female death-rates among Hindus were 25·20 and 25·26 per mille, among Muhammadans 18·92 and 19·58, among Parsis 17·83 and 18·73, among Christians 16·61 and 17·60 and among Jains 13·58 and 15·49 respectively.

Deaths among all Indians totalled 453,563—cholera being responsible for only 57, small-pox for 5,644, plague for 12,601, fevers for 183,764, dysentery and diarrhœa for 20,643 and respiratory diseases for 83,047. The following table shows the number of deaths in 1925 and the ratios per 1,000 of population arranged according to causes and contrasted with the figures for 1924 and with the mean for the preceding five years :—

	1925		1924		Mean for five years	
	Number	Ratio	Number	Ratio	Number	Ratio
Cholera ..	57	·00	8,236	·43	5,159	·27
Small-pox ..	5,644	·29	11,152	·58	4,088	·21
Plague ..	12,601	·66	9,214	·48	13,973	·73
Fevers ..	183,764	9·59	214,563	11·20	220,175	11·43
Dysentery and Diarrhœa ..	20,643	1·08	28,926	1·51	25,795	1·34
Respiratory Diseases ..	83,047	4·33	91,103	4·75	89,588	4·65
Injuries ..	7,754	·40	7,374	·38	7,661	·40
Other Causes ..	140,053	7·31	159,008	8·30	141,170	7·33
All Causes ..	453,563	23·66	529,576	27·63	507,609	26·36

Contrast graphs of the monthly incidence of deaths under the chief epidemic and general causes for the year under report compared with 1924 and the mean of 1911-20 are shewn in the charts attached.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES

Plague.—During the year the total number of deaths recorded for the Presidency was 12,601 equal to a death-rate of ·66 as contrasted with 9,214 with a death-rate of ·48 in 1924. One hundred and seventy-four deaths were reported in Bombay City during the year. Aden was quite free from plague.

For a number of years now the heavy incidence of plague has been confined to 5 or 6 districts in the Deccan and for the year under report four of these contributed some 81 per cent. of the mortality. They were Dharwar 3,733, Satara 3,292, East Khandesh 2,550 and Bijapur 686. Ratnagiri was responsible for 377 deaths and Karachi City for 50; otherwise the

North Konkan and Sind were almost free from the disease. Guzerat was entirely free as was Baroda State. Other Native States returned 1,644, Kolhapur and S. M. C. States showing the highest figures, *viz.* 1,183.

Three special plague inoculators were engaged by the Public Health Department at the outbreak of the epidemic to supplement the Medical Officers of dispensaries, private practitioners and others. The total number of persons inoculated during the year under report was 60,831 as compared with 60,327 in the previous year. Of these 5,684 were performed in Bombay City.

Cholera.—The Presidency was practically free from cholera—only 57 deaths having occurred—by far the lowest figure recorded during the last 50 years. There was thus nothing in the nature of an epidemic although cases occurred over a fairly wide area, 14 districts out of 20 in the Presidency proper being infected. Sind escaped infection completely. In all 32 towns and villages were affected.

Small-pox.—The total number of deaths from small-pox was 5,644 equal to a death-rate per mille of ·29 compared with 11,152 and ·58 in 1924 and 4,088 and ·21 the mean of the previous five years. This represented a 50 per cent. reduction on the mortality for the previous year, the worst since 1905.

Urban areas suffered worse than rural, the death-rates being respectively ·52 and ·24. In all 1,308 towns and villages were infected against 2,376 in 1924.

Of the 5,644 deaths from small-pox, 1,375 were of infants under 1 year and 2,646 of children between 1 and 10 years of age.

Influenza.—A review of the influenza mortality from 1918 shows this year's epidemic to have been the mildest of all, the total number of deaths recorded during the year being 192 against 578 in the preceding year. In Bombay City 94 deaths were registered.

Malaria.—48,505 deaths were registered in the whole Presidency against 49,821 in 1924, the death-rate being 2·53 against 2·60 in 1924.

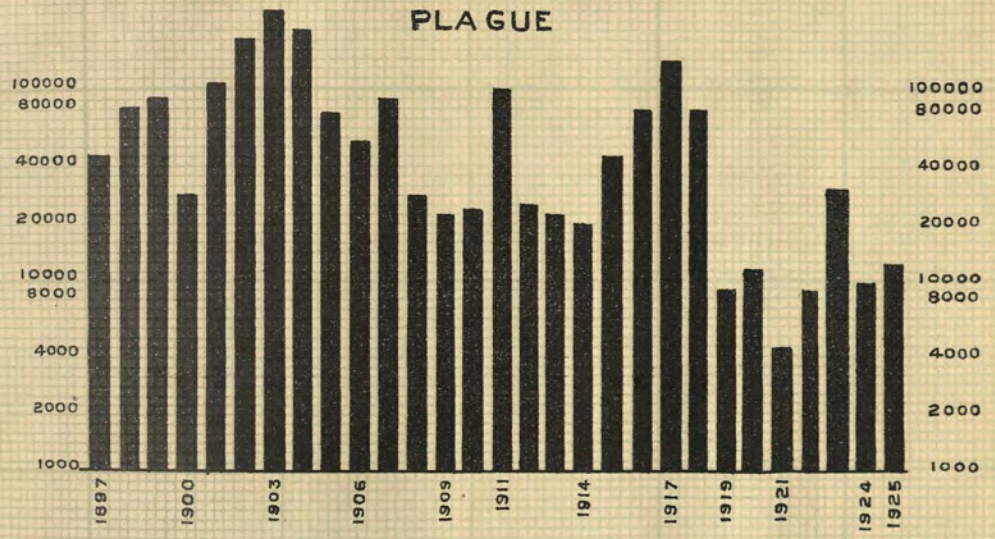
The urban and rural death-rates were ·95 and 2·91 respectively against ·90 and 3·01 in 1924.

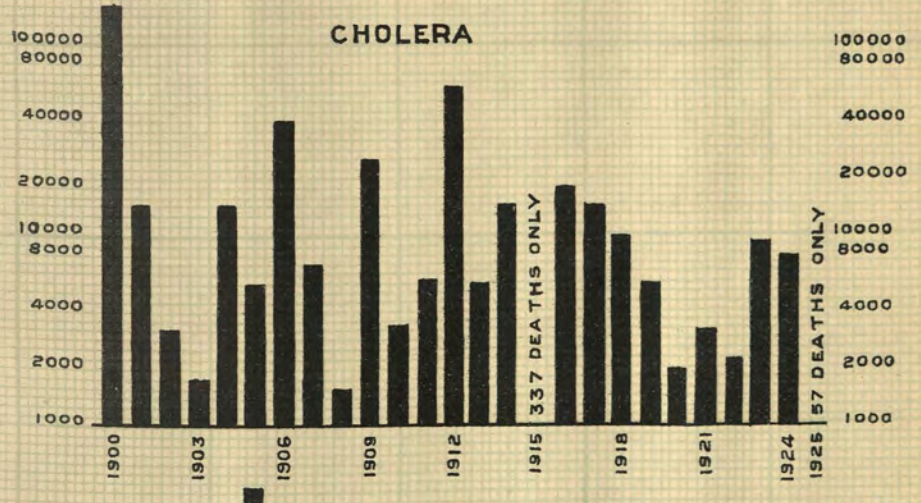
As usual rural death-rates are considerably higher than urban. The highest rural death-rates from malaria were recorded in Sind where Sukkur was the district of greatest severity showing a rural death-rate of 15·29. By urban circles, the highest death-rates were recorded in Garhiyasin 24·78.

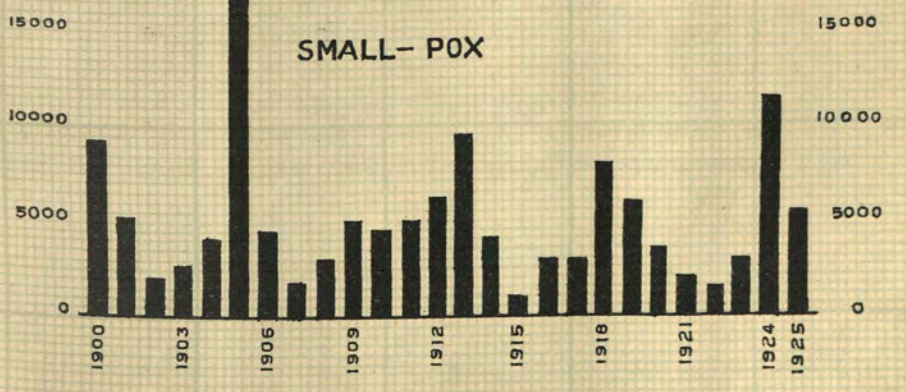
CHART IV

ANNUAL INCIDENCE OF DEATHS FROM EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

Scale figures represent actual deaths. For Plague & Cholera, figures are at their log: intervals and only those above 1000 are shown







HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

The year 1925 marks the close of a triennium and the period has been in several ways a very important one in the history of hospital organisation and medical education in this Presidency.

As a result of constant representations by the General Medical Council of Great Britain the defects in medical education have been largely removed. Adequate training facilities have been provided in many directions. Aided by the generous donation of nearly five lakhs of rupees by the representatives of the Prince of Wales Reception Fund, the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital has been re-organised and will shortly provide 120 additional beds.

The need for an extension of medical aid was brought to the notice of His Excellency the Governor soon after he assumed charge of his office in December 1923. Efforts were then made for improving the existing institutions and providing additional accommodation. At the citizens' meeting held on December 9, 1925, it was decided that a combined effort should be made by the Government, the Municipality on the one hand and the public on the other to organise a definite scheme of hospital expansion. It was laid down that an eventual expansion of 2,000 beds should be aimed at for providing adequate medical relief in the City of Bombay, but in view of the existing financial conditions it was considered that it would only be possible to attempt in the immediate future to set up about 850 beds. The appeal to the public followed by the establishment of the necessary machinery for the collection of funds, has enabled funds to be raised more than sufficient to finance the first year's programme.

It is proposed to add about 300 more beds to the J. J. and allied hospitals in Bombay in the near future at the joint expense of Government and the Sir Leslie Wilson's Hospital Fund. The expansion scheme as at present contemplated is as follows :—

(1) A new Children's Hospital of 100 beds.
(2) A new pavilion of about 100 beds to the J. J. Hospital.
(3) Rebuilding of the present Ophthalmic Hospital and increasing the accommodation from 73 to 100 beds.
(4) Extension of the Bai Motlibai Hospital by 50 beds.
(5) A new Isolation block for infectious cases.
(6) Nurses', servants' and other resident staffs' quarters, etc.

Besides the above, it is proposed to build a second new pavilion of 100 beds in the J. J. Hospital from the Rao Bahadur Ellappa Balaram donation. These works are likely to be commenced

before the close of this year and will be completed within three years.

The question of medical expansion in the mofussil is also partly one of education, as well as hospital accommodation, and it had been realised for many years that the mofussil medical schools were in great need of improvement. Despite the present financial difficulties, Government have made provision for the construction of laboratories at both the Poona and Ahmedabad Medical Schools and very extensive additions and alterations at the Civil Hospitals associated with the Schools. The total cost of these increased teaching facilities is about Rs. 3 lakhs. In addition to these important works the first instalment of a new infectious diseases hospital has now been built in Poona at a cost of Rs. 4 lakhs.

The existing facilities for special subjects and services, such as ophthalmology, venereal diseases, throat, nose and ear diseases, and radiology have been recognised to be very inadequate, and in any thorough reorganisation they will naturally have to be considered. But in the meanwhile the provision of a children's hospital, which the munificence of Mr. Byramjee Jeejeebhoy has now rendered possible, will meet a long-felt want in the City of Bombay. A comprehensive X-Ray institute at the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital forms also a part of the scheme of its extension, while proposals for X-Ray installations at four mofussil centres are also under consideration. Ophthalmic work has benefited greatly by the activities of the Blind Relief Association which under the energetic supervision of Mr. C. G. Henderson, I.C.S., has greatly stimulated this speciality particularly in the districts of Bijapur, Khandesh and Mirpurkhas. Government have granted material help to the Association which works in cordial co-operation with the district hospitals concerned.

With regard to the competency of the medical staff the Surgeon General observes :—" We are passing through a very difficult transition period. In accordance with the general trend of measures of reform the permanent Government Services, which have hitherto been chiefly responsible for the conduct of Government Hospitals, are being progressively reduced, and it is not always easy to find competent men to take their places. The independent profession, however, has come to our aid on many occasions in a very public-spirited manner, and in some cases the work of a hospital has undoubtedly benefited by the accession of honorary medical practitioners." The system of appointing honorary practitioners has on the whole been

well justified by results and everything points to its gradual extension.

During the triennium under report 39 honorary appointments have been created. The system of short term house appointments presents more difficulties and up to the present the only posts thrown open have been two house physicianships and two house surgeoncies at the Goculdas Tejpal, and two house surgeoncies at the Cama and Albless Hospitals. It is hoped, however, shortly to extend the principle.

The provision for an adequate nursing service has been a matter of much concern in all schemes for hospital expansion. The high salaries to be paid to the nursing staff make it impossible to provide the necessary funds for highly skilled and trained nurses on European lines. As an alternative a proposal has been under the consideration of Government for the engagement of a literate class of ward attendants, somewhat more highly paid than those at present employed. It is believed that if a suitable type can be attracted, these would, after a systematic elementary course of training, prove very much superior to the illiterate people who are at present too often to be found in the smaller civil hospitals.

Government have not been unmindful of the medical needs of the rural population during the past three years, though up to the present it has not been possible to carry out any comprehensive scheme. After careful consideration of the various possible alternatives (which included an indefinite multiplication of regular rural dispensaries under trained medical men and the establishment and endowment by the State of *vaids* and *hakims*), Government decided to give a trial to a scheme which is now known as "The Village Aid Scheme." Under this arrangements were made at the Civil Hospitals at Poona and Bijapur for the training of primary schoolmasters in elementary medicine and surgery on first aid lines, and thirty of them are now established in villages of about 1,000 to 1,500 inhabitants where, in addition to their school duties, under the designation of *Upacharaks*, they dress wounds and ulcers, attend to sore eyes, treat certain skin diseases, distribute quinine, and carry out other simple treatment, sending on cases which they are unable to deal with to the nearest regular dispensary or hospital. Workers of this kind have their obvious limitations, but a number of *Upacharaks* have now been engaged in villages for a considerable time and many thousands of cases have been treated by them to the great advantage of the villagers. They are highly spoken

of by local officials and other interested observers and there is a demand for an extension of the scheme.

A scheme to subsidise private practitioners to induce them to settle in small towns and rural areas is also before Government. The idea is that they would be given a small allowance and provided with a stock of medicine in consideration of their undertaking to treat poor people free. A system of this kind might have considerable possibilities and would work well in association with the *Upacharaks*. Subsidised regular practitioners would naturally not be available for villages of the size served by the latter, and the two would therefore be complementary to each other.

The triennial report on Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries for 1923-1925 records that the number of institutions which was 782 in the beginning of 1923 decreased to 638 at the end of 1925 while the number of local and municipal fund dispensaries rose from 327 to 331. The decrease in the former was due to about 130 private dispensaries in Kathiawar States being omitted from the returns as the States were transferred to the control of the Government of India.

The total number of patients treated during the year 1925 was 2,835,700 as compared with 2,754,500 in 1924. The average of the three years 1923-1925 was 2,717,000 against 2,503,700 in the previous triennium, an increase of 213,300 or 8·5 per cent. over the previous period. Both in-patients and out-patients contributed to the increase. Of the total treated 80,950 were in-patients and 2,754,750 were out-patients.

The number of women seeking medical relief at hospitals and dispensaries during the triennium rose from 557,841 in 1923 to 636,601 in 1925. The average attendance of women at general hospitals and dispensaries was 526,579 as compared with 483,927 in the preceding triennium. The steady increase is attributable mainly to the employment of women doctors at general hospitals. There are at present 3 women Assistant Surgeons and 11 women S.M.S. Officers employed in the department.

The mean daily average attendance of in-door and out-door patients for the triennium was 3,764·1 and 26,660·1, respectively, against 3,600·0 and 24,399·6 for 1920-1922.

During the triennium under review the average number of in-patients cured was 48,110 against 49,813 in 1920-1922. The average mortality for the period was 6,487 against 6,682 in 1920-1922. The ratio of deaths per cent. to the total treated was 8·3 as compared with 9·0 for the previous triennium.

The total number of beds available was 6,448 in 1925 as compared with 6,717 at the beginning of the triennium. The reduction in number of beds was mainly due to the re-arrangements of beds at the Maratha and Arthur Road Hospitals, Bombay, and the transfer of control of the West Hospital, Rajkot, the Scott Hospital, Palanpur, and the dispensaries at Wadhwan, Songad and Jetalsar to the Government of India.

During the year 1925 nearly 118,000 surgical operations were performed.

Besides several additions and improvements referred to above, mention may be made of the provision of the additional nurses' quarters at St. George's Hospital, of the new out-patient department costing Rs. 4,72,000 and the new clinical laboratories at the J. J. Hospital, and a tubercle ward of 12 beds and a maternity annexe at the Cama and Albless Hospitals.

Apart from the Government institutions, several important developments have taken place under other agencies. The King Edward Memorial Hospital in Bombay which is under Municipal control, marks an epoch in the medical history of the city, and the Wadia Maternity Hospital adjoining is assured of a large number of cases, owing to the popularity of the temporary institution which is already working under the same name.

The total income, inclusive of cash balance, amounted to Rs. 58·77 lakhs of which Rs. 5·65 lakhs were contributed by local boards and Rs. 9·36 lakhs by municipalities. The interest on invested capital yielded nearly Rs. 74,000 while of a total of over Rs. six lakhs under miscellaneous receipts Rs. two lakhs were contributed by the several nursing associations.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 54·75 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 3 lakhs on the previous year. The net cost was Rs. 52·38 lakhs.

Municipalities.—There were 155 municipalities with a total population of 2,671,161. Their aggregate income amounted to Rs. 222¾ lakhs of which Rs. 94 lakhs were spent on the improvement of water supplies, drainage, conservancy and other public health requirements.

Local Boards.—The aggregate income of 27 District Local Boards and 222 Taluka Local Boards amounted to Rs. 171 lakhs. Of this Rs. 7¼ lakhs were spent on works connected with public health.

Village Sanitation.—Under the Bombay Village Panchayat Act (IX of 1920) and the Village Sanitation Act of 1889,

599 Sanitary Committees and village panchayats were working during the year. In addition there were 21 Notified Area Committees and 1 Sanitary Board.

Laboratories.—There are two Public Health Laboratories at present working, one in Poona and the other at Karachi. A laboratory at Ahmedabad is conducted by the Ahmedabad Municipality under the guidance of a qualified medical officer.

Pilgrim Centres.—The chief day of the Ashadhi fair at Pandharpur fell on 2nd July 1925. The number of pilgrims who attended the fair was 156,000. Want of early rains in Khandesh and the Central Provinces prevented pilgrims from this area from attending the fair. There was no cholera at Pandharpur during or after the fair.

At the Kartiki fair in November, the attendance was over 111,000, and the smaller Pandharpur fairs, the Chaitri and Kartiki festivals at Alandi, the fairs at Shirala and Shingnapur were also catered for in respect of sanitary and preventive arrangements under the guidance of the public health staff.

Yellamma, Gokarn and Yamnur are the three important pilgrim centres in the Southern Registration District. The total number of pilgrims who attended these fairs was 125,000, 20,000 and 15,000 respectively. None of these fairs were responsible for any outbreak of epidemic diseases.

In Guzerat, festivals are held at Vautha in Dholka (10,000 pilgrims), at Shukaltirth near Broach (35,000) and in addition a large annual fair " Manekthari Punam " is held in Dakore.

The Lal Shahbaz Fair at Sehwan (Sind) was attended by 20,000 pilgrims.

Health Week.—The Health and Baby Week movement continued its activities in the Presidency, celebrations being held in many important towns.

A very successful Baby Week celebration opened by His Excellency Sir Leslie Wilson, the Governor of Bombay, was held at the Poona Seva Sadan Society from 13th to 18th June.

Baby Weeks were organised in many centres—Belgaum, Dharwar, Surat, Broach, Ahmedabad, Karachi, Hyderabad and Larkana, etc. Officers of the Public Health Department assisted in the work of organisation and gave lectures and demonstrations.

There can be no doubt that this movement is arousing the interest of the public in many towns and doing much to concentrate attention on the wastage of infant life and the backwardness of health work in general.

Village Dais' Scheme.—With the consent of Lady Wilson the scheme has been named the "Lady Wilson Village Baby Scheme." Rs. 7,000 have been subscribed and a start was made by bringing in six dais from the villages of the district into Poona where they were trained in the need of cleanliness and non-interference in labour cases at two of the local hospitals. The women appeared to appreciate the value and importance of the instructions received. Up to date 69 dais have received instructions and returned to their homes.

The training of dais started some years ago under the guidance of Miss R. Piggot in Sind was extended to six centres ; 41 dais were undergoing instruction while 90 were at work. A simple handbook for mothers in English and a text-book for dais in Sindhi as well as several pamphlets were published. Miss Piggot, at the request of several friends, has opened a Maternity Home in her little bungalow. So far three cases have been admitted and more were arranging to come in. The construction of a hall with the aid of a grant from Government has been commenced. Miss Piggot and her colleagues visited several villages and gave valuable advice to the people impressing upon them the benefits to be derived from the improved training of their dais. Arrangements were also made for the instruction of dais at various centres.

VACCINATION

During the year over 678,000 persons were primarily vaccinated and 136,000 persons re-vaccinated against 623,000 and 114,000 in the previous year. A decrease in primary vaccination was observed in the Southern and Central Circles and in Bombay City.

Of the primary vaccinations 89·53 per cent. were successful, ·19 per cent. were unsuccessful and the results could not be ascertained in the remaining 10·28 per cent. of the cases. The percentage of successful re-vaccination was 23·74. The results in 37·39 per cent. could not be ascertained.

Nearly 1,216,000 doses of lymph were issued from the Vaccine Institute, Belgaum, as against 1,177,500 the previous year.

The compulsory Vaccination Act is in force in the following towns :—Bombay, Bandra, Kurla, Ahmedabad, Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Rohri, Larkana, Deolali Cantonment, Ahmednagar Cantonment, Belgaum Cantonment, Dhulia town and Aden.

The cost of vaccination came to Rs. 6,25,000, each successful case costing Rs. 1-0-10 against Rs. 1-1-2 in the previous year.

THE HAFFKINE INSTITUTE

The report of the Haffkine Institute for the year 1925 showed that in spite of the decrease in plague throughout India, the demand for Haffkine's plague prophylactic continued. There seems to be no doubt that in spite of the severity of the reaction which the vaccine is apt to induce, the vaccine is gaining in popularity. In the Punjab a riot nearly followed an exhaustion of the local supply of vaccine. Formerly the inoculator had to exercise considerable tact to induce a village population to submit to vaccination against plague.

From the opening of the Laboratory up to the end of the year 1925 nearly 26 million doses of the vaccine have been sent out. The output during the last year was 1,027,000 as against 1,489,700 in 1924.

Six hundred and forty-two thousand three hundred and seventy rats alive and dead were sent by the Bombay Municipality to the Institute for examination for plague. This important work enables the Health Department of the Municipality to get warning of an outbreak of plague, and, as the locality whence each rat came is known, the locality where plague may be expected is foreshadowed. It is understood that these examinations are the largest of the kind in any city in the world and Bombay in this respect is frequently quoted as a model.

Throughout the year researches on methods for improving the anti-plague vaccine, begun in 1923, have been continued. A series of experiments showed that the vaccine is at its best when used within six months of its manufacture, but is hardly less efficient during the following six months and it is still potent up to eighteen months from the date of its manufacture.

The Institute has resumed its investigation into the transmission of plague by fleas.

The Anti-Rabic Section, in the fourth year of its existence, continued to develop. As in previous years, it has been the endeavour to encourage treatment in districts nearer to the homes of persons bitten and so provide treatment for many persons who would otherwise be unable to take the long journey to Bombay, Kasauli or Coonoor. During the past year 4,381 persons received anti-rabic treatment from the Haffkine Institute of whom 625 were treated at Bombay. The remaining 3,756 were distributed over different centres of which 13 were under the Government of Bombay and 17 were in the Central Provinces, United Provinces, Baluchistan, Indian States, the Army Department, and one or other of the great Railways, and Goa.

The Chemical Department of the Institute examined 33 samples of water bacteriologically and 115 samples chemically. After reviewing this work it is difficult to understand of what value these bacteriological analysis were to the senders. The samples are forwarded by post or by rail and arrive after many hours' and often several days' delay. These samples as far as we can gather were all taken from supplies liable to pollution and for the third year in succession we desire to repeat Colonel Mackie's remarks :—" The chemical and bacteriological examination of waters liable to pollution is useless and dangerous. Useless because it is only of value as regards the particular sample analysed, and dangerous because it creates a sense of false security. The lesson we wish to drive home is that waters liable to pollution whether of wells, tanks or rivers, should be looked upon as dangerous, and should be treated by chlorination in an approved manner, or by boiling. If a water supply is chlorinated, then bacteriological tests of properly taken samples will show whether the chlorination is effective or not."

A study of sprue is being carried on by Dr. Hamilton Fairley in the Biochemical Section, while the Pharmacological Unit continues its investigation on the use of indigenous drugs.

Dr. Margaret Balfour has begun an enquiry into the causes of maternal and infant mortality in India. In Bombay she finds that an important cause of maternal mortality is a severe anæmia coming on during the last five months of pregnancy. The disease is said to be rare in Europe. Among 12,000 labour cases treated in the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, during the years 1920-1923, only one case of anæmia was recorded ; while in Bombay in five months Dr. Balfour studied 60 cases in three of the Bombay Maternity Hospitals. The proportion of non-pregnant to pregnant women in Bombay City is about 25 to 1, but the incidence of cases of anæmia is about 4 to 1. Anæmia is, therefore, much more frequent among the pregnant, and where it is present in a non-pregnant woman, there is usually some cause, such as tuberculosis, dysentery or malaria. Malaria offers an explanation for the frequency of this anæmia in India as compared with Europe. But most of the patients emphatically deny having had much fever and in only four out of sixty did the blood show parasites.

The total cost during 1925-1926 for the maintenance of the Institute, etc., for carrying on the anti-rabic treatment was Rs. 1,97,000.

VETERINARY

Bombay Presidency.—The Annual Administration Report of the Civil Veterinary Department of the Bombay Presidency for 1925-26 indicates that contagious diseases were reported from all the districts and the city of Bombay. 74,597 attacks and 26,734 deaths were recorded from these diseases as against 109,375 attacks and 40,873 deaths reported during the preceding year. During the year 2,172 outbreaks were reported to the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and 2,178 were actually attended to by them. In the preceding year the corresponding figures were 3,037 and 3,021.

Rinderpest continued to be the cause of serious losses in cattle, although it was not so widely prevalent or so virulent as in the previous year and towards the end of the year with the exception of certain parts of the Ratnagiri and Satara Districts the situation had considerably improved. The disease prevailed in 1,382 villages which reported 52,465 attacks and 23,645 deaths as compared with 77,478 attacks and 36,564 deaths in the Presidency in the preceding year, the heaviest mortality occurring in Dharwar, Kanara, Nasik, Kolaba, Ratnagiri, West Khandesh and Surat Districts. Dharwar alone reported 4,900 deaths.

The total number of animals attacked by Foot and Mouth disease was 18,230 and the reported mortality was 50. Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia was reported from all districts except Bombay. The virulence of the disease was a little greater than in the previous year, 1,923 deaths having occurred among 2,302 animals attacked as compared with 1,584 deaths among 2,350 attacks last year. *Black Quarter* was reported from 8 districts and was responsible for 353 attacks of which 318 resulted in deaths. Anthrax was not so widespread as in the previous year. Preventive inoculations were undertaken by the staff of the Veterinary Department in 800 of the 1,382 outbreaks of Rinderpest. 91,300 animals were protected from the disease in this way ; 216 inoculated and 13,133 uninoculated animals died in the villages. Four thousand two hundred and twenty-five animals were inoculated for Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia.

The number of villages visited by the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons was 4,463 as against 4,551 in the previous year. During the course of their tours, 16,280 cases were treated for contagious diseases and 17,041 cases for non-contagious diseases. The number of cases treated at hospitals and dispensaries numbered 124,099 as against 115,144 in the past year.

There are now 96 Veterinary Dispensaries in the Presidency proper. " The work in Hospitals and Dispensaries continues

to expand with the increase in the number of dispensaries," observes the Superintendent of Department. "But although the number of dispensaries has increased considerably in the past few years, the distribution is very uneven, for the new institutions have been opened in a limited number of districts only. In the four coastal districts of Kanara, Ratnagiri, Kolaba and Thana there are only 12 dispensaries. Poona and Nasik District Local Boards maintain only three dispensaries each and more are urgently required in these districts. On the other hand, East and West Khandesh will in the near future have one dispensary in every taluka and peta. This uneven distribution of dispensaries is unfortunate, for it limits the activities of the Department considerably and it is believed that very little improvement in this direction can be expected under present conditions.

"At the request of Government, proposals for the introduction of legislation for the control of contagious diseases were submitted for consideration. Until some such action is taken, very little can be done to prevent these diseases from spreading and causing considerable loss annually. The present method of dealing with them is very unsatisfactory."

Sind.—The total mortality among cattle reported was 2,943 against 5,519 in the previous year. Twenty-nine outbreaks of Rinderpest were reported from the districts in Sind and 919 head of cattle were affected. Of these 519 died. One hundred and ninety-two outbreaks of Foot and Mouth disease were reported and 12,847 animals were affected. The number of reported deaths was 186.

Preventive inoculations were carried on among 3,754 animals with anti-rinderpest protective serum as against 2,634 inoculations in the previous year. One thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight animals were inoculated with hæmorrhagic septicæmia serum in 14 outbreaks as compared with 946 inoculations in the previous year. One hundred and twenty-one uninoculated animals died in the course of these outbreaks and four deaths occurred among the inoculated animals. The number of villages visited by the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons was 1,675 as against 1,670 in the previous year. They treated during tour 4,860 cases for contagious and 2,368 cases for non-contagious diseases. The number of Veterinary Dispensaries in Sind was 16, the same as in the previous year. The total number of animals treated at dispensaries was 26,250 against 24,572.

The expenditure of the Department in Sind was Rs. 1,27,700 as against Rs. 1,30,000 in the previous year; while the departmental expenditure in the Presidency proper amounted to Rs. 3,11,000 as against Rs. 2,80,700.

CHEMICAL ANALYSERS

The work of the Chemical Analysers to Government in Bombay and Sind is connected with the protection of the public either by the examination of the data relating to crime or suspected crime or by the examination of food-stuffs, water, etc. The medico-legal cases investigated during the year in Bombay totalled 808 of which 371 were cases of suspected human poisoning. Of the latter, poison was detected in 163 cases involving the poisoning of 147 persons, 74 of whom died.

In the Laboratory at Karachi 184 medico-legal cases were investigated, 40 of them being cases of suspected human poisoning.

The examination of stains for blood or other evidences of crime is also an important part of the work of the Chemical Analysers. Four hundred and eighty-one such cases were examined during the year in Bombay and Karachi.

WILD ANIMALS AND VENOMOUS SNAKES

During the year 1925, 1,381 persons were killed by wild animals and snakes in the Bombay Presidency. Of these, snakes alone were responsible for 1,325, as compared with 1,124 in the previous year. The highest number of deaths on account of snake-bite was recorded in Ratnagiri, namely 258 persons; next in order comes Thana with 171 deaths; Thar Parkar 95 and Larkana 80.

The total number of wild animals destroyed was 6,905. as compared with 6,190 in the previous year; while the number of snakes was 22,078, as against 23,383 in the previous year. Ratnagiri was responsible for the destruction of 9,234 snakes; Dhangs 1,236; Thar Parkar 4,513 and Sukkur 1,772. In all 61 tigers were destroyed during the year, Kanara alone being responsible for 31.

MENTAL HOSPITALS

There are six Mental Hospitals in the Presidency. The block for 24 female patients and the hospital ward of 16 beds which were under construction last year at Naupada were completed and taken into use. The number of patients treated in them was 2,036, an increase of 34 over the previous year, the

number of admissions being 537. Two hundred and fifty-six of the inmates were Criminal Insanes. During the year 297 patients were discharged cured, 57 improved, 21 not improved and 16 were discharged otherwise.

Of the persons admitted during the year, 34 were Europeans and Anglo-Indians, 31 Indian Christians, 331 Hindus and 122 Mahomedans and 19 other castes. Domestic servants and labourers formed the largest number of admissions followed by cultivators, clerks, traders, merchants and mendicants. The great majority of them were between 20 and 40 years of age.

In those cases where the causes of insanity could be ascertained, mental stress was the chief cause of lunacy ; abuse of intoxicants, mental instability and toxic diseases coming next in order.

There were 107 deaths against 120 in 1924. The ratio of deaths per cent. of the daily average strength was 6·9, as compared with 8·1 in the preceding year. The chief causes of deaths at the several Mental Hospitals were Dysentery, Diarrhœa, Anæmia, Tubercle of the lung and other tubercular diseases, diseases of the heart and Pneumonia. The increase in the mortality at the Mental Hospital, Ratnagiri, was due to deaths among the old and infirm who had been in the hospital for a long period, and among insanes admitted in a debilitated condition. The large number of deaths at the Mental Hospital, Naupada, was due to bowel and lung complaints.

The net expenditure on Hospitals amounted to Rs. 5¼ lakhs against Rs. 6 lakhs in 1924.

Apart from domestic work in the institutions, gardening, weaving and cane work formed the chief occupations for insanes.

ACWORTH LEPER ASYLUM, MATUNGA

The Acworth Leper Asylum was founded in the year 1890 by H. A. Acworth, Esqr., C.I.E., I.C.S., who was then the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, from public donations, and it provides accommodation for the segregation of pauper Indian lepers. It is in charge of a Resident Superintendent who works under the orders of the Board of Management, consisting of 20 members, of whom 3 are appointed by Government, 5 by the Municipal Corporation of Bombay and 12 are co-opted annually.

The cost of maintaining lepers who are not residents of Bombay is borne by Government, and that of Bombay lepers by the Municipality. The other sources of income are the garden and the sewage farm and occasional donations.

The asylum accommodates 364 lepers, 222 males and 142 females. The total number of persons treated in the Asylum during the year 1925 was 476, of whom 317 were males, 152 females, 2 male children and 5 female children; 341 were Hindus, 81 Indian Christians and 54 Musulmans.

Sixty-eight deaths occurred in the Asylum during the year.

Lepers who wish to work are provided with employment in the garden or the sewage farm and are given a small allowance which they use in buying small luxuries from a co-operative shop which is run for them on the Asylum premises.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,28,700.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

There is very little emigration and immigration in the Bombay Presidency in the sense in which it is usually understood, that is, the departure of Indians for foreign countries and the arrival of foreigners for settlement in India. The movements of the population are from district to district at particular seasons of the year.

There was the usual influx of Marwari and Kathiawari labour to Ahmedabad and owing to the scanty rainfall in the Banas Kantha and adjoining States, Sindhis and Bharwads with their large droves of cattle had passed through Viramgam, Dholka, Dhandhuka and South Daskroi at different times during the latter part of the year. There was also the usual seasonal influx of labour to the manganese mines and to the ginning factories at Derol station and Halol, while a good many Bhils from the Eastern Mahals went to Malwa for work as they usually do in a bad year. About 5,000 people emigrated from the Sangamner and Kopargaon talukas in the Ahmednagar District to Bombay and other centres of industry, while Sholapur being a great centre of the mill industry, attracted a large number of labourers from distant and surrounding villages and also from the Nizam's Dominions. There was the usual seasonal immigration of cartmen and coolies from Goa and the adjoining districts into the above-ghat talukas for forest and other departmental works.

Thousands of labourers found ready employment in Bombay City and the Bombay Suburban District on the various schemes in connection with the electrification of the G. I. P. and the B. B. & C. I. Railways and the reclamation and development projects of the Development Department. In Bassein Taluka there was an immigration of about 1,100 men in connection with the Railway works at Panju and Virar. In the Dharwar District house building operations and the construction of the new Railway

Water Works at Devargudihal in the Kalghatji Taluka were special sources of employment, while there was considerable migration in Sind to the various works in connection with the Lloyd Barrage.

There were about 600 immigrants to South Africa from Broach, Surat, Kaira, Kolaba and Ratnagiri and about 200 people from Thana and Dharwar emigrated to Assam Tea Gardens in the hope of getting higher wages.

CHAPTER IX

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES

DURING the past decade the policy of Government has been to give more and more power to Local Bodies and, where control is exercised, to use that control solely for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the tax-payers, especially where Government funds have been lent for local purposes. This policy is especially noticeable in the case of municipalities. In Bombay City the powers of the Corporation are practically uncontrolled, while in the mofussil Government control has been to a very considerable extent relaxed. There are in the Presidency 33 City Municipalities and 123 Town Municipalities. The distinction between the two is largely a matter of population. No town with a population of less than 15,000 can be declared a City Municipality, but when a town is so declared it can appoint a Chief Executive Officer with extensive responsibilities and wide powers as defined by the Bombay District Municipal Act of 1901. These Municipalities may also appoint a Health Officer and an Engineer and their rules and bye-laws are sanctioned by Government. In the case of town municipalities this sanction is given by the Commissioner. During the last ten years ten town municipalities have been raised to the status of city municipalities, and all now have a Chief Officer. All permanent municipalities, with a few exceptions in Sind, must have not less than half its members elected and not more than one-half of the non-elected may be salaried servants of Government.

The principal duties of municipalities lie in the direction of the provision and maintenance of public and utility services such as roads, dispensaries, water supply, sanitation and education. They are allowed to raise funds both by direct and indirect taxation. Moreover, when the circumstances of a case require it and the Local Body is prepared to make adequate efforts to help itself, Government renders assistance both by loans and grants-in-aid (subject to a limit of 50 per cent. of the cost in the latter case) towards the cost of big undertakings. By this means Ahmedabad, Poona, Lonavla, Nasik, Jalgaon, Karad, Sholapur, Bijapur, Dharwar, Hubli, Hyderabad, Sukkur

and other towns have been provided with an improved water supply and Ahmedabad and Poona with a complete system of underground drainage. In some cases where the question of good water supply is of more than local importance, water-works have been constructed entirely at Government expense. Pandharpur, a great pilgrim centre, is a case in point. Town improvements and the opening out of congested and insanitary areas are other objects for which Government makes liberal grants. Considerable improvements in the sanitary services of urban areas have been brought about by Government's assistance. Municipalities with a population of 15,000 and over may appoint Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors and Government bears two-thirds of the cost of the Health Officers and one-half of the cost of Sanitary Inspectors.

Municipalities are now allowed practically a free hand in the matter of the selection and appointment of their Chief Officers.

The total number of Municipalities increased in 1925-26 from 155 to 156 owing to the establishment of the Bhagur Municipality in the Central Division. Of these 33 were City Municipalities. The privilege of electing their own Presidents having been restored to the Municipalities of Borsad, Umreth and Nadiad, all the Municipalities in the Northern Division had elected Presidents during the year under report. The Municipalities of Dholka, Viramgam, Modasa, Ranpur, Gogho, Kapadvanj, Godhra, Dohad and Bhiwandi, whose terms of office expired during the course of the year were reconstituted on the basis of communal representation. The Municipalities of Mahableshwar and Satara Suburban continued to consist wholly of nominated members.

All the Municipalities in Sind excepting Karachi and Hyderabad Municipalities have now been constituted on a four-fifths elective basis. In view of the special position of the Karachi and Hyderabad Municipalities they have been constituted on a more liberal basis by fixing the proportion of elected councillors at eight-ninths instead of four-fifths. All the Municipalities have the right to elect their own Presidents.

The aggregate ordinary income of the municipalities excluding items under the head " Extraordinary and Debt " was the same as last year, viz., Rs. 222¾ lakhs. All the Divisions in the Presidency proper showed an increase, but in Sind there was a decrease of income amounting to Rs. 9 lakhs. The incidence of taxation was highest at Alandi (Rs. 16-3-10) and lowest at Ashta (Re. 0-9-10). The aggregate expenditure including items under the head " Extraordinary and Debt " amounted to

Rs. 321½ lakhs, an increase of 17 lakhs over the previous year. The various municipalities now have loan debts amounting to nearly Rs. 124 lakhs, the Ahmedabad Municipality alone being responsible for Rs. 42·90 lakhs. Nearly Rs. 2½ lakhs were paid off during the year.

Government, in reviewing the working of the Municipalities in the Bombay Presidency during 1924-25, remarked as follows:—

"Apart from the unpleasant features revealed in Audit the record of general administration of most of the municipalities has not been unsatisfactory. Though it is evident that the majority of municipalities are barely able to provide for their irreducible current necessities and that very few have at their disposal funds to pay for capital improvements or for the introduction of the higher standard of municipal administration which the advance of education and the spread of progressive and modern ideas are leading the people to demand, yet it is satisfactory that the net income of the municipalities in the year under report has increased by 28 lakhs over the previous year's income. The ordinary expenditure which amounted to 218¾ lakhs also exceeded the corresponding figure for the previous year by 26¼ lakhs and was, generally speaking, equitably distributed over the various items of the public requirements.

The question of municipal finance is at present engaging the careful attention of Government. Schemes for sanitary improvements in the major municipalities have now reached such magnitude that it is clearly impossible for the Provincial Government to be as liberal as hitherto in giving grants-in-aid nor would it be fair to the general taxpayer to divert a large portion of the general revenues to the exclusive benefit of the inhabitants of a few wealthy industrial cities. Government have been very favourably impressed by the action of certain municipalities recently in raising loans in the open market for such schemes, and the fact that they have been able to obtain the money at 5 per cent. is a proof of their good financial standing and their ability to finance their schemes without assistance from the general revenues. Government hope that the excellent example set by these municipalities will soon be followed by others, and are confident that, if this is done, a great improvement in the sanitary conditions of the larger cities will be effected."

BOMBAY MUNICIPALITY

The income for the year 1925-26 showed an increase of Rs. 3·16 lakhs over that of the previous year, and the expenditure a decrease of Rs. 9·69 lakhs. The net result of the transactions for the year disclosed a surplus of Rs. 14·43 lakhs, the revenue

being Rs. 305⅓ lakhs and the expenditure Rs. 290¾ lakhs. The principal increases were under General Tax (¾ lakh), Cotton Duty (1¾ lakhs), Water Works (7¼ lakhs), Education (1⅓ lakhs) and Building regulations (nearly one lakh). The incidence of taxation per head increased from Rs. 21-12-0 to Rs. 21-14-4 for the year on the basis of the estimated annual increase in the population of the city over the census figure of 1921. During the year under report Rs. 90 lakhs were taken up by the Corporation from Government out of the loan of 2 crores sanctioned to be raised in 1924-25 and out of the loan of Rs. 150 lakhs (1925-26). The loans raised from the public amounted to Rs. 63¼ lakhs. The loan liabilities of the Corporation at the close of the year including the advance of Rs. 31 lakhs received from Government for Mahim Development Schemes stood at Rs. 1,816½ lakhs. The total sinking fund investments made up to 31st March 1926 totalled Rs. 264⅓ lakhs. The revenue and capital assets of the Municipality amounted to Rs. 2,725 lakhs and the liabilities to Rs. 2,140 lakhs, a surplus of Rs. 585 lakhs. The rates of taxation were the same as in the preceding year.

As regards public works, the prices of building materials and labour were more favourable than in the previous year. The construction of a market at Chowpaty and of a market and primary school on the reclaimed site of the Gilder Tank are in progress. The western approach to Curry Road Overbridge has been joined to the southern approach to DeLisle Road Overbridge. DeLisle Road and Dadar Overbridges have been completed and opened to traffic and the work of widening Victoria Road finished. Properties in 29 new cases in the Hornby Road Ballard Pier Scheme have been acquired at a cost of Rs. 25 lakhs. Twenty-two unsound buildings were demolished, exclusive of the military properties already pulled down.

The year 1925-26 was a memorable one inasmuch as the city was faced with the prospect of a serious water famine which was only averted by the timely completion of the first section of the new Tansa mains from Tansa lake to Ghatkopar. The completion of this work has resulted in a marked increase in the water supply to the city ; the hours at which water is supplied have been extended and the pressure has improved. The total quantity of water received during the year from all sources amounted to 20,781 million gallons on an average of 57 million gallons per day against 18,305 and 50 million gallons in 1924-25. The average daily supply per head for all purposes was 43·51 gallons against 39·12 gallons during the preceding year. The total sanctioned cost of the Tansa completion works amounts

to Rs. 548 lakhs. The total amount spent since the commencement of the works amounts to Rs. 474 lakhs. Before the end of the next financial year, the Tansa completion works will be handed over to the Water Department for maintenance.

The Fire Brigade received 443 calls of which 118 were false alarms. The total damage by fires amounted to nearly Rs. 10 lakhs against Rs. 15¼ lakhs in the preceding year.

The total number of deaths during the year numbered 31,968, being 6,806 less than in 1924, giving a death rate of 25·4 per thousand. The birth rate was 16·10 and the number of births was 20,268. The rate of infant mortality was 356 per 1,000.

Markets and slaughter-houses brought in a revenue of Rs. 11½ lakhs.

The opening ceremonies of the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital and the Seth Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College were performed by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay on the 22nd January 1926.

Education.—The year was an important landmark in the Educational history of this city inasmuch as the first beginnings of free and compulsory education in the city were made in F and G wards. Actual compulsion was brought into force on 2nd November 1925. The preliminary census revealed that the total number of children liable to compulsion was 17,613. At the end of this year the actual number of children going to school was 12,001 as against 5,663 prior to the introduction of compulsion. Forty-two new schools were opened as a result of compulsion, 35 of them being Marathi. The recurring expenditure of the scheme is estimated at Rs. 13·44 lakhs and the non-recurring expenditure at Rs. 3·72 lakhs. The abolition of fees in F and G wards from 1st November 1925 has resulted in a reduction of about Rs. 10,000 in the income from this source and the abolition of fees in all other wards from 1st April 1926, will entirely eliminate this item of income from the next year. Although the introduction of compulsion in all wards may not be possible at once for financial and other reasons, the total abolition of fees is a step which will earn the gratitude of the poor.

The total expenditure for the year (year of compulsion) amounted to Rs. 25·44 lakhs as against Rs. 23·46 lakhs in the preceding year (year before compulsion). The total receipts amounted to Rs. 27·12 lakhs as against Rs. 25·31 lakhs in 1924-25. The municipal grant amounted to Rs. 26·56 lakhs as against Rs. 24·26 lakhs. The average expenditure per pupil worked out at Rs. 57-7-0 as against Rs. 57-9-0 in the year previous.

LOCAL BOARD ADMINISTRATION

Every Local Board is presided over by a president who is elected from amongst the non-official members of the board. In addition a vice-president is also similarly elected. The funds at the disposal of the boards consist chiefly of the local fund cess on Land Revenue, but there are other sources of revenue, such as proceeds of ferries, tolls on Local Fund roads, quarrying fees, etc. The boards have also the power to levy, with the sanction of the Commissioner, such local taxes as a local authority is authorized to impose under section 80A (3) (*a*) of the Government of India Act. In addition, considerable grants are made by Government for education, roads and bridges, the improvement of communications, water-supply and village sanitation, and the proper equipment and maintenance of dispensaries.

In 1924-25 Government's contribution to the expenditure of local boards under the more important heads of Education, Medical and Civil Works compared with the total expenditure under the respective heads was as shown below :—

	Government contribution	Total expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
Education	79,68,027	89,41,530
Medical	1,28,316	10,50,720
Civil Works	16,10,849	39,93,027

The greater part of the revenue is usually spent by the District Board on works of general utility to the whole district, but each taluka board has funds at its disposal to enable it to carry out and maintain works of purely local utility for which it is primarily responsible. At least one-third of the net revenue from the local fund cess and the cess on water rate must be spent on education.

There was no change in the number of District Local Boards (27) and Taluka Local Boards (222) during 1925-26. All District and Taluka Local Boards had non-official Presidents. The total membership was 4,140, of whom 3,123 were elected. The average percentage of members present at each meeting of the Taluka and the District Local Board were respectively 68·12 and 77·80 in the Northern Division, 73·48 and 82·15 in the Central Division, 58·49 and 73·35 in the Southern Division, 54·13 and 70·73 in Sind and 68 and 78·7 in the Bombay Suburban Division.

The aggregate income of the Boards rose from Rs. 170¾ lakhs to Rs. 203 lakhs. The incidence of taxation was highest in Broach (Re. 0-12-3) and the lowest in Ratnagiri (Re. 0-0-10). Expenditure rose by 31¾ lakhs to Rs. 192¼ lakhs, Education (99 lakhs), Medical Relief (10½ lakhs) and Public Works (44½ lakhs) being the principal items of expenditure.

A Government Resolution reviewing the administration of Local Boards for 1924-25 remarks :—

"The working of the Boards was on the whole fairly satisfactory. The Chairman and members of the Boards have evinced greater interest and energy in their work. Generally the Boards were averse to additional taxation and are prone to depend upon Government for increased grants from provincial revenues for works and objects of purely local importance. This resulted in an inadequate attention to medical needs and neglect of roads, etc. As an instance of the former may be quoted the reduction by the Thar Parkar Board in the number of its vaccinators with results that were disastrous yet instructive. The Larkana Board refused on the ground of lack of funds to increase its usual grant to dispensaries in two small municipalities which serve a large area outside municipal limits. The principal question which the Boards have to face courageously and to solve is one of finance. Government have endeavoured to help the Boards, so far as the state of Provincial Funds permits. They are considering the recommendations of the Committee appointed to consider the question of financial aid to local boards to which a reference was made in the previous review. The Boards themselves have been given powers of levying taxes under Act IV of 1923. Taxation is always distasteful to the public and the members of the Board imposing new taxes have necessarily to face unpopularity. Government, however, hope that with the increased elected element in the Boards introduced by the new Local Boards Act, members will not shirk the task of putting the finances on a sound basis but will rise to the occasion. Local needs must be met by local taxation and Government deprecate the tendency of the Boards to place undue reliance on Government for financial support. Government are, however, fully alive to the necessity of improving the working of the Boards in various directions. The Committee to examine the question of the future of village panchayats, which was referred to in the previous review, has submitted its recommendations, which are under consideration. Two more Committees were appointed, one to consider the question of the transfer of provincial roads and buildings to District Local Boards for maintenance and

another to consider and report on the question of the transfer of control of medical, vaccination and veterinary staffs to District Local Boards and the re-organisation of the Public Health Department. The labours of these Committees were not concluded till the close of the year under report."

BOMBAY IMPROVEMENT TRUST

The most important event of the year was the coming into force, on the 31st March 1926, of the City of Bombay Improvement Trust Transfer Act, 1925, under the provisions of which the old Board of Trustees was wound up and the Corporation constituted the Board. As the original Act came into force in November 1898 the old Board had been in existence for a period of over twenty-seven years.

The expenditure on capital works was Rs. 43·51 lakhs against Rs. 73·7 lakhs in the preceding year. Progress was made with the Dadar-Matunga, Sion-Matunga, Nowroji Hill, Parel, Naigaum, Worli, Dharavi and Sewri-Wadala schemes. Marked progress was also made with the construction of the Eastern Avenue especially with the portions between Lalbaug and Connaught Road and the Carriageway was completed and handed over to the Municipality with the exception of the portion between Kalachowkey and Chinchpokli Roads, the portion southwards from Connaught Road to the Wesleyan Church was also completed and new siding lines were laid in connection with the Tramway Company's Depot and so one more well-known bottle-neck has been removed.

The widening of the Byculla Bridge undertaken in conjunction with the G. I. P. Railway was successfully continued and the bulk of the work was completed and another obstruction to the Eastern Artery removed.

In Dharavi the reclamation of an important strip from the swamp land lying along the Western edge of the G. I. P. Railway was completed, and also a considerable area in the South-east corner of the Scheme just south of the Andhra Valley Power Supply Buildings.

In all 1,305 cases came before the Land Acquisition Officer including the opening balance of 1,297 and out of them 1,231 remained outstanding at the close of the year. Awards amounting to Rs. 6·46 lakhs were made for land aggregating 81,402 square yards, an average rate of Rs. 10·80 per square yard as against Rs. 8·47 for the previous year.

The construction of chawls in Scheme 37 near Parel Road comprising of 248 one-room tenements and 136 two-room

tenements taken in hand at the end of last year was duly completed with compound walls, drainage, margins, etc.

The area of developed land permanently leased decreased from 22·55 to 21·42 lakhs square yards, and the rental increased from Rs. 25·3 to Rs. 25·6 lakhs. The area of unleased developed land at the close of the year was 14·79 lakhs square yards as against 10·92 lakhs square yards at the close of the previous year.

The average population in the Board's chawls (excluding Love Lane and Sydenham Road chawls which were not occupied throughout the year) and semi-permanent camps was 29,935. The average death-rate for all chawls per 1,000 fell from 7·12 to 6·98, the lowest since 1912, and compared very favourably with the average death-rate of the city, which fell from 31·27 to 25·38.

The total yearly rental of the 8,493 rooms including shops and godowns and 214 looms in the Trust chawls amounted to Rs. 8·63 lakhs, and the revenue actually collected was Rs. 6·31 lakhs or 69·31 per cent. of the total demand including arrears of the previous year. The net annual return on the chawls works out to 3·54 per cent. on the outlay. The average loss borne by the Trust comes to Rs. 31·12 per room per annum.

The number of plots disposed of was 57 against 78 in the previous year, and their total area and capital value were 52,374 square yards and Rs. 22·30 lakhs respectively as against 1·46 lakhs of square yards and Rs. 27·87 lakhs respectively for the previous year. The collection of ground rent amounted to Rs. 27·3 lakhs, and the rent realised from buildings acquired but not demolished and from lands let for cultivation, etc., amounted to Rs. 14·08 lakhs.

The Capital account stood as follows :—

	Rs.	
Opening balance ..	127·94 lakhs	
Loan receipts ..	70·00 ,,	
Sale proceeds ..	8·25 ,,	
Expenditure ..	88·52 ,,	(including a deficit of Rs. 27·90 lakhs on the general account)
Closing balance ..	117·67 lakhs	

The total borrowings of the Trust as on 31st March 1926 stood at Rs. 15 crores 24 lakhs involving payment of interest and sinking fund charges of Rs. 91 lakhs per annum.

BOMBAY PORT TRUST

The original estimates of receipts for the year 1925-26 were based on the anticipation of a slight improvement in trade conditions as compared with the preceding year. The returns for the first few months fulfilled this expectation, but the improvement was not maintained and the receipts in the later months fell considerably short of budget expectations. To counterbalance the fall in revenue the energies of all departments were concentrated on retrenching working expenses in every possible direction. In addition redoubled efforts were made to curtail expenditure on maintenance, stores and repairs, to an absolute minimum with the result that the actual expenditure for the year showed a saving of Rs. 20·38 lakhs on the original expenditure estimates and Rs. 6·29 lakhs on the revised estimates.

The receipt under all heads amounted to Rs. 284 lakhs and the expenditure to Rs. 276½ lakhs, the result of the year's working being a surplus of Rs. 7½ lakhs under General and Pilotage Accounts for transfer to the Revenue Reserve Fund and the Vessels Replacement Fund.

The total tonnage of cargoes dealt with at the docks and bunders during the year was 6,460,000 tons against 6,459,000 tons in 1924-25.

An outstanding feature of the trade of the year under review was the record increase in the importations of petrol, which amounted to 7,444,000 gallons as against 6,254,000 gallons in 1924-25. The Trustees reduced the wharfage on bulk petrol from 1 anna 6 pies to 1 anna 3 pies per gallon with effect from August 1925.

The average number of daily labourers was 2,506 against 2,680 in 1924-25 and the highest number employed on a single day was 4,157 against 5,109 in the previous year.

As a precaution against the introduction of the Mexican boll weevil into India through the medium of imported American cotton bales, regulations were formulated by Government, in consultation with the Trustees, for the fumigation of all American cotton, the importation of which into British India was restricted to the port of Bombay and to the fair season months, November to May. An enclosed area was set apart on the Mazagon-Sewri Reclamation exclusively for the landing and delivery of fumigated cotton and the Trustees undertook, on behalf of Government, to transport the cotton from the importing vessels to the fumigation depot and to collect the special fumigation charges from importers. In response to the wishes of the trade, the Government of India have now decided as an experimental measure to permit the

importation and fumigation of American cotton during the monsoon months; special arrangements being made for fumigation to be carried out in Prince's Dock.

There was a slight improvement over the preceding year in the number of vessels occupying the dry docks, the number of vessels docked being 200 against 193 in 1924-25. The total tonnage increased to 713,973 tons, being 36,734 tons more than the previous year.

The Ballard Pier berth was used by 178 vessels as against 170 during 1924-25. Postal and passenger trains to and from the station connecting with the incoming and outgoing mail steamers were run regularly during the year, the number of special trains being 301 against 271 in the previous year.

The total tonnage dealt with at the Bunders was 1,597,000 tons against 1,637,000 tons during 1924-25, the principal decreases being in coal, chunam, sand, cotton and kerosene oil in bulk.

In response to a representation from the East India Cotton Association, the Trustees sanctioned a reduction of Rs. 504 per annum on each godown at the Mazagon Cotton Depot with effect from 1st September 1925.

During the year under review the Bombay Chamber of Commerce held an investigation into the cost of handling goods imported and exported *via* Bombay, with a view to determining whether the Bombay port charges are causing any diversion of border line trade to other ports. The Chamber's report was exhaustively considered by the Trustees and their conclusions were submitted to the Chamber, and also to the Indian Merchants' Chamber and other kindred Associations, in the form of a note showing the fluctuations in the annual volume of trade at the various Indian ports and in the principal commodities handled at the Port of Bombay and commenting on the Port Trust charges and the various causes which, in the Trustees' opinion, conduce to divert trade from Bombay. The Committee of the Chamber expressed general agreement with the conclusions stated and the remedies suggested by the Trustees with certain observations and suggestions.

A conference of the Chairmen of the major Indian ports was held in Calcutta in February 1926 to consider the advisability of organising a permanent Association of Indian Port Authorities on the lines of the British Association. It was unanimously agreed that such an association would serve a useful purpose and would facilitate consultation and co-operation on questions of mutual interest or matters requiring common action. The proposals have been approved by the Trustees.

KARACHI PORT TRUST

Capital Expenditure during the year was restricted to essential works and amounted to Rs. 42·21 lakhs, of which Rs. 8·87 lakhs was expended on dredging plant; Rs. 7·57 lakhs on the deepening of the Alexandra Dock entrance channel; Rs. 5·17 lakhs on the construction of a transit shed at No. 9 berth, Alexandra Dock; Rs. 2·73 lakhs on a new caisson for the Merewether Dry Dock and Rs. 2·33 lakhs on the reclamation for coal north of the existing Coal Bunder. No new loan was raised by the Trustees during the year, the expenditure being financed from loan balances in hand.

KARACHI PORT TRUST

The total revenue of the Karachi Port Trust for the year 1925-26 amounted to Rs. 61·79 lakhs, nearly Rs. 20 lakhs less than that for the previous year. While imports showed a slight increase, exports slumped heavily from 2,070,209 tons to 676,089 tons, the decrease being due to a falling off in shipments of wheat, rapeseed, barley, gram and maize. The export of wheat declined by 884,591 tons but the shipments of cotton were 1,111,808 bales equivalent to 202,148 tons and exceeded the last year's record of 835,691 bales or 151,944 tons, respectively.

Eight hundred and sixty-eight steamers of all kinds entered the Port with a tonnage of 2,209,406 against 1,036 and 2,726,923 respectively in the previous year. Of the above 701 were of British Nationality. Of 167 foreign steamers, 50 were Italian, 41 German, 21 American, 19 Dutch, 11 Japanese, 10 Swedish, 8 Norwegian, 3 Greek, 2 French, 1 Jugo-Slav and 1 Danish.

Six pilgrim steamers left Karachi with 1,244 pilgrims for Hedjaz during the year and 4 arrived with 1,910 pilgrims.

The progress of work of the three berths on the West side of the harbour has been satisfactorily maintained.

The Port Trust was able to show a surplus on the year's working despite falling receipts and while the revenue for the year showed a decrease of Rs. 20 lakhs, expenditure was less by over Rs. 4½ lakhs, giving a surplus of Rs. 51,500.

ADEN PORT TRUST

The financial position of the Port continued to be satisfactory and though the value of the trade decreased in comparison with 1924-25 yet the tonnage of merchant steamers using the Port increased. The receipts were Rs. 16,625 less than in the previous year. The closing balance was Rs. 13·04 lakhs as against an opening balance of Rs. 12·19 lakhs.

Imports decreased by Rs. 2 lakhs and export by 21 lakhs.

The number of vessels including country crafts, but excluding Government vessels, that entered the harbour, was 2,344 with an aggregate tonnage of 4,391,000 as compared with 2,482 with a tonnage of 4,290,000 during the last year. Only 4 pilgrim ships entered the harbour on their way to and from the Haj against 23 in 1924-25.

WORKING OF THE RENT ACTS

Bombay.—The work of original enquiry held by the Deputy Rent Controller continued to be heavy throughout the year. In most of the new cases both landlords and tenants requisitioned the help and advice of lawyers and Civil Engineers and regular inquiries were made as in civil suits.

Twenty-nine fresh objections under section 6 of the Bombay Act VII of 1918 were received against 77 of the previous year. These together with one undisposed of objection of the previous year were dealt with in the year under report. Out of the 30 objections, 5 were not proceeded with by the parties concerned. Fifteen objections were disposed of by the Rent Committee. In five of such appeals the Deputy Rent Controller's orders were modified or varied on account of the production of new evidence by the parties before the Committee. In 10 cases, the objections were disallowed and Deputy Rent Controller's orders were confirmed. One case was referred back to the Deputy Rent Controller for re-hearing and 9 objections were pending at the close of the year.

In all five meetings of the Rent Committee were held during the year.

Prosecutions under section 7 of the Bombay Rent (War Restrictions No. 2) Act, 1918, were instituted against landlords or their agents who attempted to evade the orders passed by the Deputy Rent Controller by receiving rent in excess of the standard rent fixed in respect of "small premises." The total number of prosecutions instituted was 1,383 resulting in 1,266 convictions and fines amounting to Rs. 10,200. Out of the remaining 117 cases 36 were withdrawn with the permission of the magistrates, and in 20 cases the accused were acquitted; sixty-one cases were pending at the close of the year.

Poona.—Eighty suits under the Rent Act, including 34 pending from the previous year, came before the First Class Surbordinate Judge during the year, of which 57 were disposed of, 24 in favour of the landlords, 6 in favour of the tenants, 17 compromised, 7 withdrawn and 3 dismissed for plaintiff's default.

Thana.—The Rent Acts are applicable only to Thana Mahal. Forty-two cases were received during the year under report and all excepting five cases were disposed of.

Bombay Suburban District.—One hundred and six applications were received for fixing the standard rents of premises against 67 applications in the previous year. Of these applications 34 did not come under the Rent Act, in 55 applications after due enquiries standard rents were fixed and 17 applications were filed at the request of the applicants as both the parties settled the matters amicably. Out of these 106 applications, more than half were made by the tenants, and others were made by the landlords. Both tenants and landlords are taking advantage of Rent Act whenever possible. Many of the provisions of the Act are still unknown to the poor people for whose benefit more or less the Act is in force, and in most cases they are still paying unduly heavy rents.

Karachi.—The Rent Controller passed orders fixing the standard rent of 1,882 tenements comprising about 294 buildings. Twenty-one appeals were preferred to the Rent Committee out of which the Controller's decisions were upheld in 9 cases and slightly modified in 12 cases. During the year under report control was removed from dwelling premises, the rent of which exceeded Rs. 50 per mensem. The Act was further extended by a further period of three years and a sliding scale of increased rents was allowed to be charged. Under the present amended Act, rent control will cease after the 31st December 1928.

Aden.—The Bombay Rent (War Restrictions) Acts have been in force in Aden from the date of passing by the Legislature, but a Rent Controller was for the first time appointed in 1922.

During the year the Rent Controller dealt with 529 applications and fixed the standard rent of 447 small premises.

One hundred and twelve suits were filed before the Court for ejectment out of which 88 were decreed, 17 were dismissed, 5 settled out of Court and 2 were pending.

CHAPTER X

COLLECTION OF REVENUE AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

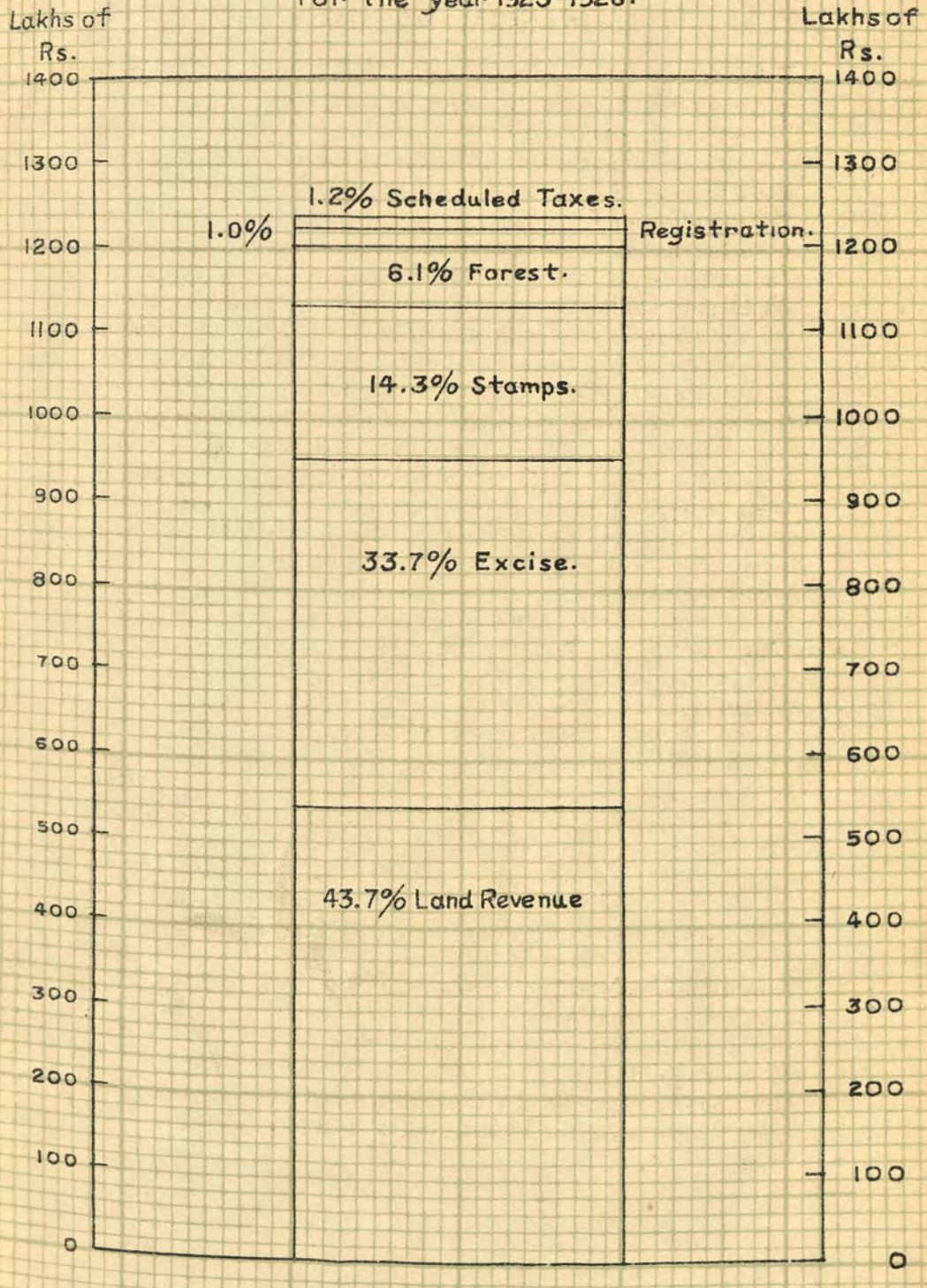
THE Revenue Administration of the Bombay Presidency is carried on by the following officers working under the orders of Government :—

Five Commissioners, 27 Collectors, 1 Deputy Commissioner and a number of Assistant Collectors. All these officers, with the exception of four who belong to the Bombay (Provincial) Civil Service, are members of the Covenanted Civil Service. In addition to the officers mentioned above, there are 88 Deputy Collectors. They are divided into three grades and are generally in charge of district treasuries or of divisions of districts, or in Sind are Daftardars to the Collectors.

A Collectorate generally contains ten talukas, each of which comprises about one hundred Government villages, that is, villages that are not alienated and the total revenues of which belong to the State. Each village has its regular complement of officers, a large number of whom are hereditary. The officers on whose services Government in the Presidency proper is mainly dependent are the patil, who is the head of the village for both revenue and police purposes ; the talati or kulkarni, who is the clerk and accountant ; the mahar, who is a kind of beadle ; and the watchman. The patil and kulkarni either hold a certain quantity of rent-free land or are remunerated by a cash payment equivalent to a certain percentage on the collections. The mahar and watchman, in common with other village servants, also hold land on more or less favourable terms as regards assessment, and receive in addition grain and other payments in kind from the villagers. The remaining servants are the carpenter, blacksmith, potter, barber, and others whose services are necessary to the community. A village is for Government or social purposes complete in itself, so its revenue accounts are simple but complete. They are based on the Record of Rights. Every plot of land held by an occupant is separately measured, assessed and entered in the Record in the name of the person or persons in actual possession of it. The land revenue demand is based on this Record which is thus both a Record of Rights as well as of liability.

In charge of each taluka of a collectorate there is an officer termed MAMLATDAR (or MUKHTIARKAR in Sind).

Distribution of Principal Heads of Revenue for the year 1925-1926.



AN ASSISTANT OR DEPUTY COLLECTOR is placed in revenue charge of a division which contains on an average four talukas.

THE COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE is in charge of the whole district. Besides superintending the realisation of the land revenue, the duties of administering the collection of excise and other special taxes and of supervising the stamp revenue devolve upon the Collector as executive head of the district.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONERS, of whom there are four for the Presidency proper and one in Sind, exercise a general superintendence and control over the revenue administration of the districts in their charge.

The annual Budget is presented to the Council during February. Previous to presentation it has been examined by the Finance Committee of the Council. This committee, which consists at present of 12 elected members, 4 nominated members, the Members of the Executive Council and Ministers, and the Secretary to Government, Finance Department, is not statutory but is constituted annually by motion made in the Council. The elected members are elected by the Council immediately after motion is carried and its functions are advisory only.

The Budget is divided into voted and non-voted items. All items under the following heads are, under section 72-D (3) of the Government of India Act, non-voted :—

(i) contributions payable by the local government to the Governor-General in Council ;

(ii) interest and sinking fund charges on loans ;

(iii) expenditure of which the amount is prescribed by or under any law ;

(iv) salaries and pensions of persons appointed by or with the approval of His Majesty or by the Secretary of State in Council ; and

(v) salaries of Judges of the High Court of the province and of the Advocate-General.

All other items are voted. But if the Governor certifies that any demand relating to a reserved subject, which has been either reduced or refused by vote of the Council, is essential to the discharge of his responsibility for that subject, the reduction or refusal of the Council becomes void.

By Rule 33 of the Rules of the Legislative Council a Committee on Public Accounts is constituted to deal with the audit and appropriation accounts of the province. The committee consists of 12 members of whom 8 are elected by the non-official members

of the Council, and the remainder nominated. The Finance Member is *ex-officio* chairman.

THE BUDGET FOR 1925-26

There was again a setback in the year under review under the most important head of 'land revenue' receipts. The budget estimate for the year stood at 560 lakhs in addition to 68¼ lakhs under irrigation, a total of 628¼ lakhs. The final accounts of the year showed that the actual revenue was 539½ lakhs land revenue plus 63¼ lakhs for irrigation, or a total decrease of 25½ lakhs. The setback was partly due to the partial failure of the inundation of the river Indus in August 1925-26, an illustration of the precarious conditions in Sind which the canals under the Lloyd Barrage Scheme are designed to relieve. The revenue under this head is also subject to wide fluctuations owing to the policy of grant of suspensions and remissions on a large scale.

Under the next important head of revenue also, "Excise," there was a drop in revenue. The receipts were estimated at 449¾ lakhs but the actuals were only 415¼ lakhs, a decrease of 34½ lakhs. The policy of rationing in the supply of liquors was an important contributory factor in this result. The consumption of liquor has fallen since 1920-21 from 28·4 lakhs of gallons in that year to 18·4 lakhs in 1923-24, 17·2 lakhs in 1924-25 and 15·4 lakhs in the year under review.

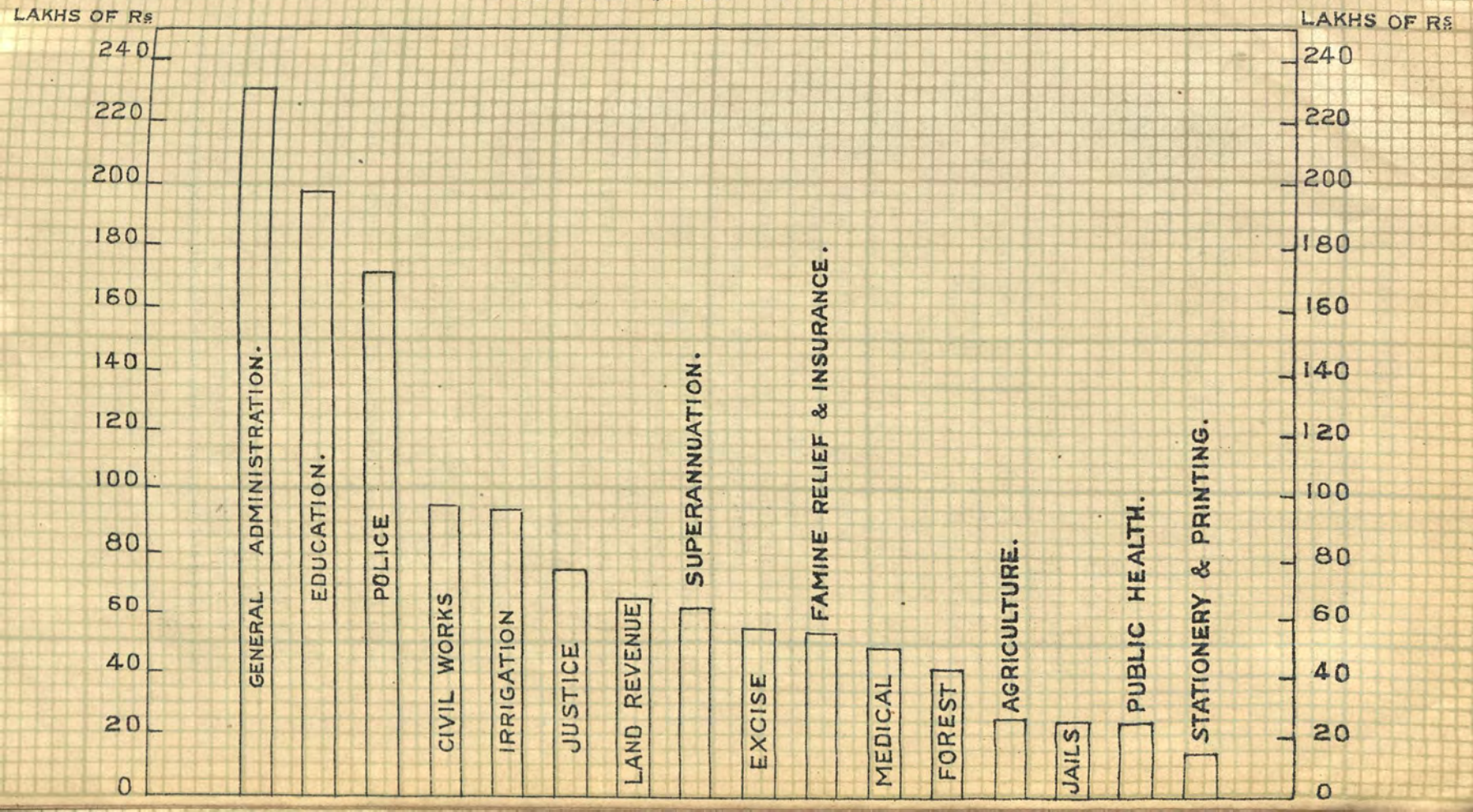
Under "Stamps," due to the continued depression in trade, actual realisations fell short of the estimate of 184½ lakhs by about 9 lakhs.

From "Forests" the receipts for the year were estimated at 74 lakhs while the actual realisations were 75 lakhs. Revenue from "Registration," which was estimated at 13½ lakhs, fell short by about three quarters of a lakh.

The operation of the Entertainments Tax was estimated to bring in a revenue of 9½ lakhs, but a new measure providing for a tax on the Totalizator, having been sanctioned during the course of the year, the total revenue under this head amounted to 15¼ lakhs. The entertainments duty for admission to a race course was reduced from 50 per cent. to 25 per cent. and this was responsible for a decrease of revenue under entertainments duty (excluding the totalisator tax) from 9½ lakhs to 7¼ lakhs.

Although the budget estimates for 1925-26 were prepared on principles of strict economy, Government were faced with

DISTRIBUTION OF PRINCIPAL HEADS OF EXPENDITURE MET FROM REVENUE FOR THE YEAR 1925-26.



a revenue deficit of 41 lakhs. They therefore placed before the Legislative Council the following taxation proposals :—

	Estimate of Revenue Rs.
(1) Increase in Court Fees	18 lakhs
(2) Transfer of Property Tax for the City of Bombay	18 ,,
(3) Totalizator Betting Tax	6 ,,
	42 lakhs

The taxation proposals were thus designed to leave a small surplus of 1 lakh. The Council however refused (in the budget session) to accord its sanction to the Transfer of Property Bill, and the Court Fees Bill was not proceeded with by Government after its first reading. But the Council, at its July session, passed a Bill empowering Government to levy a tax up to 4 per cent. of the money put in the tote. Government accordingly levied from December 1925 a tax of 2½ per cent. and this brought in an additional revenue of 8 lakhs.

As compared with the previous year, there was an increase of 15 lakhs in expenditure under the head " Excise " which was merely due to a change in the system of accounts, under which a debit of 20 lakhs was made under that head for the first time for the cost of opium supplied to the Excise Department. The actual cost of the Excise Department was therefore less than that of the previous year. The expenditure under the heads " Land Revenue," " Administration of Justice," " Police," " General Administration," " Civil works," " Superannuation Allowances and Pensions " and " Stationery and Printing " showed slight increases as compared with the previous year due mainly to a steady rise in the incremental scales of pay. On the other hand there was small decrease of expenditure under each of the heads " Forests," " Registration," " Jails and Convict Settlements " and " Miscellaneous Departments." Expenditure under the heads " Education," " Medical," " Public Health " and " Agriculture " also showed increases over the previous year's figures, owing to increased activities of those Departments.

LOAN ACCOUNTS

The total advances drawn from the Government of India during the year 1925-26 for development and general purposes were Rs. 658 lakhs. Out of this amount Rs. 180 lakhs were for development purposes, Rs. 90 lakhs were advanced to the Bombay

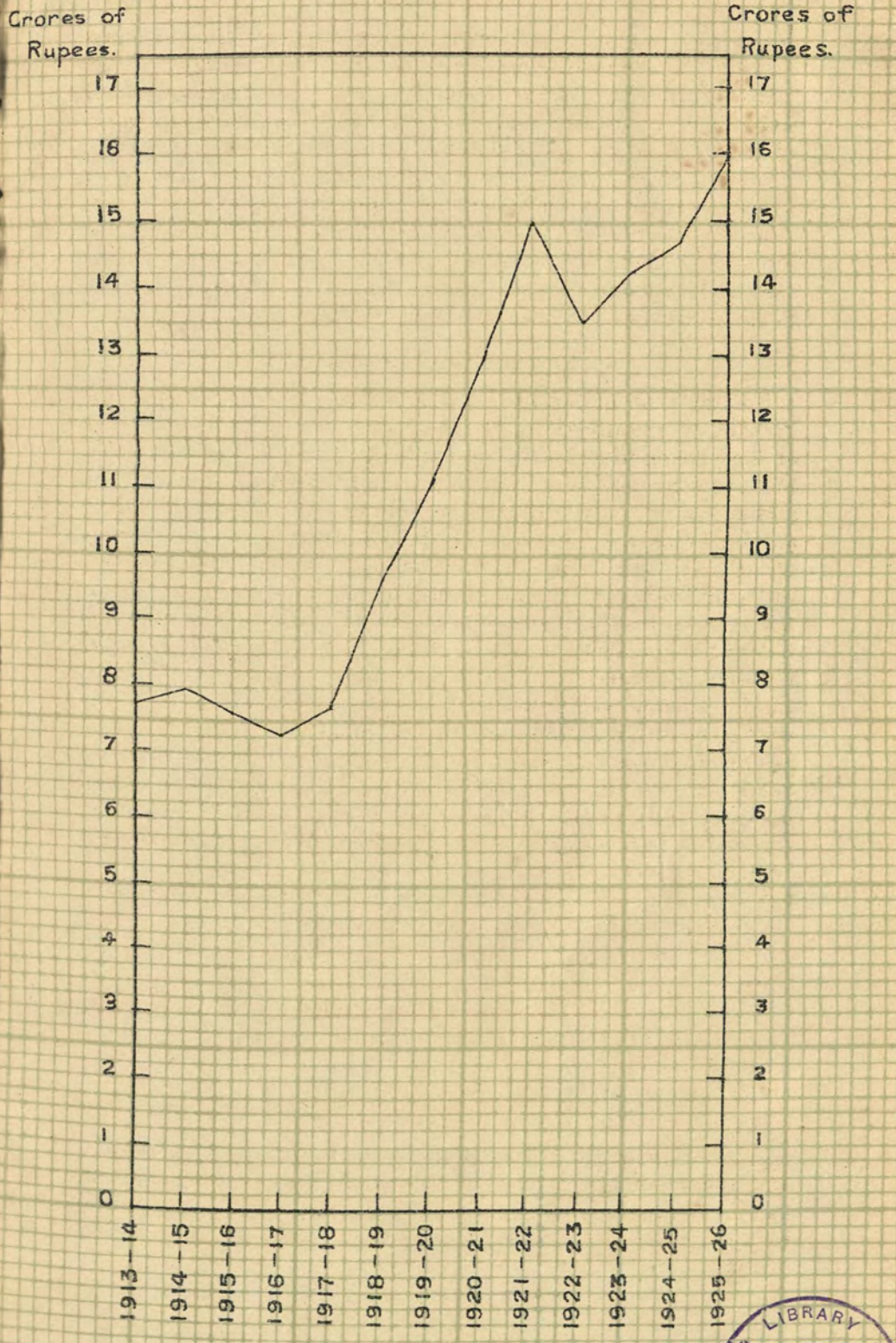
Municipality and Rs. 70 lakhs to the Bombay Improvement Trust. Rs. 254 lakhs were drawn for the Lloyd Barrage, Rs. 29 lakhs for other productive irrigation works, Rs. 30 lakhs for other unproductive purposes and Rs. 5 lakhs for loans to Co-operative Housing Societies. The standard rate of interest on advances for productive purposes, which include the Lloyd Barrage, other irrigation works and Development Department was 5½ per cent. The rate was higher by ¼ per cent. in the case of advances for other unproductive purposes. The rate to be charged on the loan for local bodies and for advancing to Co-operative Housing Societies has not yet been finally decided.

NO REVENUE FROM INCOME TAX

For the year under review, the income tax revenue in this Presidency amounted to Rs. 350½ lakhs due to the continuance of the general depression in trade and especially owing to the unfavourable condition of the mill industry and of the cotton market. Even the suspension of the cotton excise duty authorised by the Government of India from about the middle of the year under review did not materially improve the condition of the mill industry. Bombay received nothing out of the income tax revenue for 1925-26 as the assessed income for that year fell below the assessed income of 1920-21 (a year of unexampled industrial prosperity) which is fixed as the datum line, so that the Presidency gets nothing unless the assessed income in any year exceeds that datum line, when a small percentage is given. No revenue was received from this source in the two previous years also, so that Bombay which is primarily an industrial province and contributes nearly a fourth of the total income tax revenue of India usually receives nothing out of this important source of revenue—an inequitable arrangement against which the Government of Bombay have never ceased to protest. As a result of these protests and the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Committee, the Government of India are considering, in consultation with the local Governments, the question of reallocating some of the sources of revenue between Central and Provincial Governments and it is hoped that under a partial modification of the present financial arrangements now under contemplation, the Government of Bombay will be allotted a fair share in the income tax revenue.

As a result of the representations made by this Government and the members of the Central and Provincial legislatures, the Government of India reduced the provincial contribution to the Central Exchequer during the year under review by

Total Expenditure Charged to Revenue.



LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Rs. 22 lakhs. The reduction of contribution has however not come as a permanent measure.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The principal items of revenue and expenditure for the year 1925-26 are given below :—

(Figures in thousands of rupees)

Head of account	Revenue	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue	5,39,49	64,66
Excise	4,15,33	55,06
Stamps	1,75,53	—53*
Forests	75,09	41,67
Registration	12,78	6,74
Scheduled Taxes	15,30	18
Irrigation	42,09	94,95†
Interest	1,67,28	2,66,37
Sinking Funds	....	18,24
Administration of Justice ..	16,46	75,24
Jails and Convict Settlements ..	5,02	25,52
Police	7,07	1,72,18
Education	10,52	1,97,69
Medical	6,55	48,66
Public Health	6,19	24,78
Agriculture	3,19	27,41
Industries	4	68
Miscellaneous Departments ..	1,99	4,69
Civil works	16,15	96,76
Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	17,60	61,92
Stationery and Printing ..	3,69	15,61
Miscellaneous	7,03	30,74
General Administration ..	....	2,28,79
Ports and Pilotage ..	....	21
Scientific Departments ..	....	79
Famine Relief and Insurance ..	....	53,60

* This *minus* entry is due to the deduction of 3,25 on account of the value of stamps supplied to other Governments from the expenditure of 2,72 for the Stamp Department. This deduction is always made under the expenditure head instead of the receipts being under the revenue head "Stamps."

† This includes expenditure of 10,00 on account of interest on the Lloyd Barrage Scheme met out of the annual assignment of 63,60 for Famine Relief and Insurance.

LAND REVENUE

	Demand	Collection	Suspensions	Remissions
	Lakhs	Lakhs	Lakhs	Lakhs
Northern Division ..	122·43	105·25	12·01	4·96
Central Division ..	200·77	162·68	25·67	12·36
Southern Division ..	124·11	112·61	9·04	2·43
Sind ..	103·85	102·45	1·05	10·94
Bombay Suburban Division ..	2·51	2·01	....	....

PUBLIC WORKS REVENUE

The Public Works Revenue falls under the three heads "Imperial Military," "Central" and "Provincial." The revenue under Provincial which consists of rents of buildings, rents of electric and water supply and sanitary installations, Ferry receipts, Tolls on roads, sale of water, etc., amounted to nearly Rs. 16¼ lakhs as against Rs. 15½ lakhs derived last year.

The revenue under the other two heads amounted to Rs. 1¼ lakhs as against Rs. 1½ lakhs derived last year.

CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

PORT OF BOMBAY

Gross Customs Receipts.—The gross receipts of the Bombay Custom House, excluding the excise duty on cotton manufactures and the tea and cotton cesses, amounted to Rs. 12 crores 72 lakhs during the year under report as against Rs. 13 crores 14½ lakhs during the previous year. Receipts on account of duty showed increases under sugar (15½ lakhs), all other articles not specified (13 lakhs) and motor cars and motor cycles, etc. (6¼ lakhs). Decreases were noticed under Cotton Manufactures (29⅓ lakhs), Liquors (7¾ lakhs), Metals (7⅓ lakhs), Silk and articles made of silk (16½ lakhs), Dyes and Colours (12¾ lakhs) and Matches (8¼ lakhs).

Expenditure.—The total expenditure during the year under report was Rs. 18 lakhs as against Rs. 17¾ lakhs in the previous year. The ratio of gross expenditure to net collections rose to 1·4 from 1·3 per cent. in the previous year. The cost of the establishment, which includes the cost of the establishments maintained at the expense of private firms in connection with their private bonded warehouses, increased from Rs. 13·46 lakhs to Rs. 13·47 lakhs and represented 1·08 per cent. of the net collections as against 1·05 per cent. in the previous year.

Customs Offences.—The total number of cases adjudicated under the Sea Customs Act was 2,752 as against 2,764 in the preceding year. Out of the total number, 1,469 related to offences under the Merchandise Marks Act. Of the remaining 1,283, no penalty was imposed in 229 cases. The Preventive Department seized nearly 58 lbs. of cocaine and made 32 seizures of opium and other allied drugs. The Department also placed before the Magistracy six cases of illicit importation of arms and ammunition and obtained convictions in all of them. Only one seizure of birds' feathers was made; the offender was penalised but the penalty was not recovered. The Department detected a case of systematic fraud in which goods were cleared on false invoices showing approximately 50 per cent. only of the correct value.

Frauds on the revenue were also discovered to have been perpetrated by a firm importing articles of perfumery.

The penalties and fines imposed during the year under report aggregated Rs. 41,000 as against Rs. 1·24 lakhs in the previous year.

The Indian Merchandise Marks Act.—During the year 24 applications were received from parties interested in trade marks requesting the Custom House to detain goods imported with imitations of marks to the exclusive use of which the applicants claimed a right.

There were 1,039 cases of false trade description as to the country of origin. In ten of these cases, goods made in one foreign country bore descriptions suggestive of origin in another foreign country. The remaining 1,029 cases related to goods not manufactured in the United Kingdom or British India but bearing names of British Indian dealers or other descriptive terms suggestive of British or British Indian origin.

Recoveries under fines and penalties in lieu of confiscation amounted to Rs. 15,083 and Rs. 70 respectively.

Land Customs.—The special feature of the Land Customs Administration of 1925-26 was the enactment of the Sawantwadi Land Customs Act, I of 1925, analogous to the British Land Customs Act, XIX of 1924. The new Act now applies to 51 miles of the Goa Frontier line bordering on the Sawantwadi State. By a notification issued by the State, the Act is applicable in a zone between its actual boundary and a line three miles distant from the Frontier line. It came into force from 5th May 1925.

The number of duty collecting stations on the Goa Frontier was increased by two during the year. The receipts at the

Custom Houses were Rs. 10·29 lakhs during the year under report as against Rs. 9·21 lakhs during the previous year, an increase of Rs. 1·8 lakhs. The increase was mainly due to larger imports of dutiable kerosene oil *via* Mormugao, Railway and Bridge materials required by the M. & S. M. Railway Company and partly to larger removals of rice and paddy to Goa owing to a failure of the crops there.

The Up through traffic at Castle-Rock showed an increase due to heavy exports of ground-nut seeds, manganese ore and jagri from above-ghats to places outside India or to Bombay and other out-ports. The Down through traffic from Bombay and the coast ports to above-ghat destinations remained almost unchanged during the year.

SIND

The gross Customs Revenue collected in Sind during the year 1925-26 amounted to Rs. 5 crores and 40 lakhs as against Rs. 5 crores and 58 lakhs in the preceding year. Refunds and drawbacks granted amounted to Rs. 19·58 lakhs. The total expenditure increased from Rs. 6·55 lakhs to Rs. 6·92 lakhs.

The number of offences adjudicated under the Sea Customs Act rose from 838 to 851. Most of the important cases related to the importations of obscene pictures, arms and ammunition and wireless apparatus and accessories. The preventive service detected six cases of illicit importations of arms and ammunitions, two cases of illicit exportations of Charas and a case of illicit possession of Persian opium. The postal branch of the appraising section besides being responsible for the seizure of arms and ammunition also detected 8 cases of import of obscenities and 17 cases of unauthorized importations of wireless apparatus and accessories.

During the year under report there were altogether 1,175 consignments which infringed the requirements of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act against 1,173 in the previous year.

SALT DEPARTMENT

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

The principal feature of the year under review was the transfer of the control of the Department from the Local Government to the Central Board of Revenue, with effect from the 1st January 1926, for which purpose the Salt Law Amendment Act XXII of 1925 was enacted. The Collector of Salt Revenue, however, continues to be under the control of the Local Government for

the purposes of the administration of the (*a*) Indian Ports, (*b*) Landing and Wharfage Fees and (*c*) Merchant Shipping Acts, at the outports in the Presidency proper which are in his charge.

The salt with which the Bombay Presidency Salt Department has to deal may conveniently be classified as follows :—

(1) Baragra or Rann Salt made from brine wells on the edge of the Lesser Rann of Cutch in the salt works at Kharaghoda and Udu, six miles apart, and jointly named the Pritchard Salt Works. These are Government property and worked departmentally.

(2) Sea salt made within the Presidency. The factories at Dharasna and Chharwada at the Southern end of the Gujarat Coast near Bulsar are both Government property and worked departmentally. The other salt works, with three exceptions, are grouped within a radius of thirty miles of Bombay city. Some are Government property and are leased to private individuals for working ; others are owned as well as worked privately.

(3) Imported salt, mostly from sea salt works in Goa territory.

There was a decrease of Rs. 20 lakhs in the revenue of the Department during the year, the gross receipts being Rs. 146 lakhs. The total expenditure including refunds amounted to over Rs. 31 lakhs.

The production of salt at Kharaghoda was further restricted owing to large stocks on hand. The produce of the Pritchard Salt Works showed a decrease of 54,000 maunds below that of the season of 1924-25.

The sales of Baragra Salt during the year amounted to 23·57 lakhs of maunds compared with 31 lakhs of maunds in 1924-25 and 15·25 lakhs of maunds in 1923-24, the figures for 1924-25 being above the normal as a reaction from the preceding year's figures which had fallen considerably owing to the doubling of the rate of duty on salt. The issues for 1925-26 were, however, somewhat below normal, due to a general depression in trade and tightness of the money market.

The quantity of Baragra salt in hand at Kharaghoda at the close of the manufacturing season was 63·13 lakhs of maunds (exclusive of 14·38 lakhs maunds at Kuda), compared with 74·54 lakhs of maunds at the end of the previous season.

The total quantity of salt issued and imported for consumption in the Presidency proper is shown below :—

Name of Province	Year	Quantity	Population	Average per head
		Maunds		Lbs.
Gujarat	1924-25	1,200,235	6,840,085	14·44
	1925-26	1,107,049		13·32
Konkan, Deccan and Southern Maratha Country ..	1924-25	2,852,456	15,479,188	15·16
	1925-26	2,588,666		13·76
Total ..	1924-25	4,052,691	22,319,273	14·94
	1925-26	3,695,715		13·63

The per capita issues for consumption in the Presidency proper have slightly decreased.

The number of fish-curing yards at which business was transacted during the year under report remained unchanged, *viz.*, 33. The total quantity of fish brought to be cured was 226,351 maunds against 306,035 maunds or a decrease of 79,684 maunds. This large decrease occurred after a successive increase for three years.

Denatured salt, for use as manure, free of duty at the flat rate of 13 annas per maund was issued from convenient custom houses, salt-works and fish-curing yards to the extent of 2,407 maunds during the year under report against 3,021 maunds in the previous year.

SIND

The following were the sources of salt-supply during the year :—

(1) The Maurypur Salt Works direct.
(2) The Saran Salt Deposit direct.
(3) The Darwari Salt Deposit direct.
(4) The Dilyar Salt Depot.

In addition to these, two private salt works, namely, the Beacon Hill Salt Works and the Sind Salt and Chemical Works, were opened during the year near Maurypur but salt was issued from the former only.

The year has been marked by a decrease from last year's figures both in production and issues, in the former case to the

extent of 51,000 maunds and in the latter 40,000 maunds. The decrease in outturn was chiefly confined to sea salt and was due to a reduction in the number of pans licensed during the year, on account of the probability of a smaller demand owing to the size of the stocks left over from the previous year, and the opening of private salt-works.

The decrease in issues relates wholly to the Maurypur Salt Works and is accounted for by the fact that the dealers, expecting a rise in duty with effect from 1st April 1925, made large purchases towards the end of the preceding year and increased their stocks of salt.

During the year under report 329,282 maunds of salt were manufactured at the Maurypur Salt Works as against 448,531 maunds during 1924-25 and the quantity of salt excavated at the Saran Salt Deposit was 39,190 maunds as against 21,800 maunds during the previous year. 14,800 maunds of salt were excavated at the Darwari Salt Deposit as against 9,023 maunds during the last year, out of which only 2,469 maunds were stored up to 31st March 1926. 38,982 maunds and about 6,218 maunds were manufactured at the Beacon Hill Salt Works and the Sind Salt and Chemical Works respectively.

The consumption of salt in the Province, including consignments imported by sea and Punjab rock salt, amounted to 470,833 maunds as against 541,534 in the preceding year.

The average consumption of salt in the province worked out to 11·78 lbs. per head per annum as against 13·6 lbs. in the previous year.

The average wholesale and retail prices of salt in the Province worked out to Rs. 2-14-8 and Rs. 3-6-6 respectively, those of Maurypur Salt being Rs. 2-9-0 and Rs. 3-0-1 respectively against Rs. 2-9-0 and Rs. 2-14-9 in 1924-25.

The gross receipts from excise and other charges on salt amounted to Rs. 7 lakhs and the expenditure (share debitable to salt) was Rs. 1·62 lakhs. The expenditure works out to 23·158 per cent. of the gross receipts.

ADEN

The total revenue and expenditure on salt for the year amounted to Rs. 54,975 and Rs. 2,737 respectively as against Rs. 61,593 and Rs. 2,732 in the previous year.

The quantity of excise salt issued during the year from the Arab Salt Works at Sheikh Othman was 22,987 local maunds and was retained for consumption in British territory. The total quantity exported to the interior of Arabia amounted to 36,424 maunds as against 42,374 maunds in the previous year.

The cost price realised by the salt-pit owners was Rs. 2,178 against Rs. 2,432 in 1924-25.

The quantity of salt exported by the Italian Salt Company was 125,679 tons as against 130,537 tons in 1924-25. The quantity of salt exported from Messrs. Abdullabhoy and Joomabhoy Lalljee's salt works was 52,290 as against 66,275 tons in the preceding year. Messrs. Hajeebhoy Laljee and Company exported 995 tons of salt.

From the Arab Salt pans 100 tons were exported to East Africa.

EXCISE

The consumption of country liquor once more decreased, being 179,000 proof gallons less than in the preceding year. This decrease was general throughout the Presidency proper and Sind, and was contributed to by all but ten districts. Twenty-four more shops were closed.

Consumption again did not touch the ration figure, and in the Presidency proper fell short of it by 478,367 proof gallons.

The total decrease in revenue (still-head duty, license and vend fees) was Rs. 27 lakhs.

The consumption of toddy in the Presidency proper increased by 311,000 gallons. In Sind, where this beverage is only drunk at a few of the larger towns and to a negligible extent, there was a slight decrease. In spite of the increase in consumption referred to there was a decrease of 23,294 in the number of trees tapped due, according to the Commissioner of Excise, to the practice of adulteration. The total increase in revenue was Rs. 1,68,846, the decrease in tree-tax receipts being more than balanced by the increase in vend and license fees.

The proposals to remedy the inaccuracies of the foreign liquor accounts are still under consideration and the figures are therefore open to doubt in the same degree as they have been in previous years. They show under imports increases of 17,714 and of 59,958 gallons in the Presidency proper and Sind, respectively. In the Presidency proper the total increase was under the head of fermented liquors, wines and spirits showing a considerable decrease. A large quantity of the imports find their way to other provinces, and so far as this Presidency is concerned the figures of sales as indicating consumption, are alone important. These showed an increase of 23, 248 gallons in the Presidency proper and a decrease of 4,653 gallons in Sind. In the former the increase fell entirely under fermented liquors, the consumption of wines and spirits being actually less than

that of last year by some ten thousand gallons. For Sind the details showed a decrease of some 8,000 gallons in fermented liquors, while spirits showed an increase of 2,800. There was a considerable increase in the imports and sales of non-potable spirits.

Ganja showed a decrease of 3,311 seers in the Presidency proper but an increase of 65 in Sind. The decrease in bhang was 837 in the former and 21,986 in the latter. The consumption of charas fell by 407 seers in Sind. These changes are small, except that in the case of bhang in Sind which was said to be due to an increase in the duty, the cessation of the supply of "ghundis," and the closure of twelve retail shops. In the Presidency proper the sales of opium fell by 1,760 seers and in Sind by 374. The decrease in opium and charas in Sind and in opium in the Presidency, was partly attributed to the rivalry of the smuggled article.

The gross total expenditure upon excise increased by Rs. 1,43,286 and the net revenue showed a decrease of Rs. 26,35,681.

The Government Resolution reviewing the Excise Administration Report says: "From the financial point of view these figures are disquieting. Receipts from still-head duty on country liquor are bound to decrease with the decreasing ration, but it appears that now that the conditions of the trade are being fully appreciated, experience has taught bidders the extent to which it is safe for them to go, and receipts from vend fees have not made up the deficit during the year, and are not likely to do so in future. As pointed out by the Commissioner last year it does not pay the licensee to sell his full ration. He knows how much the purchaser of licit liquor is prepared to spend, and it pays him to get that amount out of him by high prices rather than by increased sales, which involve a larger expenditure and a possible rise in the auction value of the shop in the next year.

"The Commissioner's report further shows that little satisfaction can be derived from the fact that less intoxicants have been consumed, as indicating a decrease in a social evil. It would appear that in large centres like Bombay City the milder fermented beverages are to some extent taking the place of the more deleterious and expensive spirituous liquors; and this may be regarded as a step in the right direction. But in the rural and smaller urban districts the place of licit is being taken by illicit liquor, locally manufactured in the Presidency proper, or smuggled from neighbouring territories into Sind. Detected

offences against the excise law amounted to 5,488. The details show an increase of 249 in the Presidency proper and of 25 in Sind in connection with liquor. The cases of illicit distillation are actually 278 in excess of the previous year's. It is of course a matter of conjecture, but it is probable that the percentage of increase in detected cases indicates a more or less proportional increase in the numbers of those which did not come to light, and it is the opinion of local officers that the former are the merest fraction of the latter. There are, of course, certain regions in the Presidency where there is no public or private opinion against the use of liquor, and where the policy adopted by Government is in direct opposition to local usage. But it would also appear that the public opinion which that policy represents is inactive. Efforts in the direction of temperance propaganda are reported to have been spasmodic. The proposal to transfer a liquor shop from one locality to another is the signal for a number of petitions to Government, many of which upon enquiry prove to have been made on grounds of a personal nature and other than those declared. But there is no steady movement in favour of abstinence from liquor, and in the rural regions where it flourishes excise crime is not considered reprehensible, but rather is encouraged and concealed. Indeed in those tracts where the Government policy runs counter to public opinion, as for example in West Khandesh, secret, and at times, open and violent resistance is organised against the efforts of the Excise authorities to check crime. Government must necessarily view these tendencies with apprehension. Open disregard of the excise laws is bound in the end to have a demoralising effect, both upon the public and upon the excise subordinate staff, whose position is one of great difficulty and not infrequently of some personal danger. A considerable increase in this staff is required until a radical change of public opinion is effected, but the revenue to meet the cost is decreasing as the need for it becomes more urgent. Government therefore await with interest the receipt of the report of the Committee appointed to consider alternative sources of revenue."

STAMPS

According to the Administration Report of the Stamp Department in the Bombay Presidency and Sind the total revenue for the year 1925-26 was Rs. 179·3 lakhs, of which Rs. 81·6 lakhs were received under the Court Fees Act and Rs. 97·7 lakhs under the Stamp Act. Excluding the provincial share of

the sale proceeds of unified stamps the total receipts in the Presidency proper for the triennium ending 1925-26 amounted to Rs. 4 crores 55 lakhs as against Rs. 4 crores 58 lakhs in the preceding triennium. In Sind the receipts totalled Rs. 61 lakhs showing an increase of Rs. 1·8 lakhs during the triennium. The revenue recovered in Bombay City alone in 1925-26 was Rs. 76·6 lakhs or 52·33 per cent. of the total revenue derived in the Presidency proper.

The revenue from Judicial stamps amounted to Rs. 81·6 lakhs. Of this the share of Bombay City alone was Rs. 31·4 lakhs as compared with Rs. 34·7 lakhs in the preceding year. The decrease in Bombay mainly related to Probate Duty which dropped from Rs. 11·4 lakhs in 1924-25 to Rs. 8·5 lakhs in 1925-26. The proceeds under Impressed stamps and Impressed labels amounted to Rs. 64·8 lakhs. Impressed or special adhesive labels affixed to documents at the Bombay Stamp Office and the Aden Treasury accounted for Rs. 25·2 lakhs.

The total charges incurred in Bombay City amounted to Rs. 5·6 lakhs as against Rs. 5 lakhs in the preceding year ; while the charges in Sind amounted to Rs. 5 lakhs.

There were three prosecutions for infringement of the Stamp Law in the Presidency proper. One case resulted in a conviction and a fine of Rs. 20, the other cases are still under consideration. In Sind there were 5 prosecutions involving 10 persons all of whom were convicted.

TAXES ON INCOME

From the beginning of the year under report, all the rural areas of the Presidency which were till then in charge of the Land Revenue Department Officers were taken over by the Income Tax Department which began to work the whole Presidency for the first time. The Department was in this way entirely separated from the Land Revenue Department of the Local Government.

"The intense depression in trade and industry," says the report of the Commissioner of Income Tax, "which has been in existence in this Presidency since the latter part of the year 1921 continued in 1924-25 and no appreciable improvement was to be noticed anywhere except a slight temporary revival in the piece-goods trade. Four successive bad years have thrown a very heavy strain on all those important businesses here which contribute the largest amount of tax and have also seriously affected their earning power. A comparison of the classified statement of super-tax receipts shows a uniform fall in the

incomes of each and every kind of businesses with incomes exceeding Rs. 50,000.

"The cotton mill industry used to contribute the largest amount of tax as far as this Presidency was concerned and its decline has had a serious effect on the provincial Income-Tax revenue. From a maximum income-tax and super-tax revenue of about Rs. 330 lakhs from this industry alone in 1921-22, we have in 1925-26 fallen to under Rs. 20 lakhs. The total collections for 1925-26 would have been nearly doubled had we got as much from this source this time as we did in 1921-22."

Karachi, the second port in the Presidency, reports a heavy fall in its exports in 1925 with the result that the collections from tramp steamers which in 1924-25 amounted to Rs. 1,11,000 fell to Rs. 14,000 only in 1925-26. The total income-tax demand for the year stood at Rs. 2 crores 86·83 lakhs as against Rs. 2 crores 93·80 lakhs for the previous year. This meant a fall of Rs. 6·97 lakhs. Cotton mills alone caused a fall of Rs. 11·76 lakhs in the income-tax demand. Hence excluding them, there was an increase of Rs. 4·79 lakhs.

The net income-tax collections were Rs. 2 crores 63·93 lakhs for 1925-26 as against Rs. 2 crores 74·52 lakhs for 1924-25. Of the total collections 77·34 lakhs were collected from companies, registered firms, and holders of Government of India and other securities, and 1 crore and 83·40 lakhs from individuals, unregistered firms and Hindu undivided families, the total income on which the tax was assessed being 10 crores 54·85 lakhs and 39 crores 8 lakhs respectively. The number of individuals, unregistered firms and Hindu undivided families paying income-tax was 67,922. The largest number is to be found in the class whose incomes range from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,499 per year, the total being 18,146 and the tax collected amounting to over Rs. 8·23 lakhs. The next highest class is between Rs. 3,500 and Rs. 4,999, the figure being 11,397 and the tax collected amounting to Rs. 11·56 lakhs.

Persons with income of Rs. 50,000 and over numbered 815 paying 43·93 lakhs income-tax on an assessed income of Rs. 4 crores 68·79 lakhs.

The net super-tax collections for 1925-26 were Rs. 86·14 lakhs as against Rs. 1 crore 22·84 lakhs for 1924-25. Excluding arrears, the net collections were Rs. 79·35 lakhs for 1925-26 as against Rs. 1 crore for 1924-25. The fall of about Rs. 21 lakhs in these collections was due to a fall in the income of large businesses, to smaller dividends received from companies by

super-tax payers and to devices adopted to evade the tax. There were 6 private individuals and 2 Hindu undivided families in the Bombay Presidency whose assessable incomes to super-tax amounted to more than 5 lakhs per year and between them they paid Rs. 19·31 lakhs in super-tax. The number of companies paying super-tax on 5 lakhs and over was 37, the amount of tax paid by them being 26·42 lakhs.

The Bombay Presidency therefore raised in super-tax and income-tax Rs. 3 crores 50 lakhs, a decrease of 47 lakhs over the previous year.

Progress made in Educating Assessees.—"Hardly any improvement was noticeable in this connection last year," says the Commissioner of Income-tax. "In Bombay City, the percentage of the number of returns of income filed to the number of returns issued was much the same as in the previous year and stood at about 75. For the Presidency as a whole too there was no marked change. New assessees brought on the list, as a rule, do not care to put in their returns of income and last year they numbered about 5,000. Also in Bombay City, the cloth-dealers having made better profits in 1980 Samvat than in 1979 Samvat, nearly 40 per cent. of them did not file their returns hoping to escape lightly thereby. They were sadly disappointed in this, of course, thanks to the efforts of the Income-tax Officer in charge, but this is a good example of the mentality of the Bombay City tax-payers in this connection and the difficulties which our Income-tax Officers have to encounter in making their assessees realise their responsibilities. As observed by the Board in its Annual Report for 1924-25, a few prosecutions may have perhaps to be tried to stop this practice of not putting in returns of income to escape the tax.

"The most important problem which constantly pressed itself for solution was of course that of bogus companies and bogus firms formed to evade the tax. It will be seen that our super-tax revenue has been showing all along a more marked fall than the income-tax revenue year after year and this extra fall is due mostly to the formation of private companies and bogus firms. A reference to the High Court has recently been tried to see whether the present law does not give us power to treat the withdrawal of profit from bogus companies by its proprietors in the shape of loans, as part of the income of the proprietors concerned liable to super-tax. Much depends upon the result of this reference which has not as yet been heard by the High Court. In England, the practice has of late been to treat such bogus loans as part of the taxable income of the persons taking them."

CHAPTER XI

INSTRUCTION

FOR educational purposes each district, besides the City of Bombay, is provided with a Deputy Inspector with assistants, and there are five Inspectors above them, one for each of the four Educational divisions into which the Presidency proper is now divided and one for the province of Sind. Besides these there are Special Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors for certain subjects. The control of the whole department is vested in the Director of Public Instruction who has under him a Deputy Director, a senior member of the Indian Educational Service.

The principal educational institution in the Presidency is the **University of Bombay**, which alone has the power of conferring degrees recognised as a special qualification for appointments and promotions to posts in Government service. The University also provides facilities for post-graduate teaching.

Below the University are the several affiliated **Colleges** which prepare students for the University examinations. At present there are 17 such colleges teaching the Arts courses, and six providing instruction in professional courses.

The Royal Institute of Science, Bombay, opened in 1920, provides facilities for post-graduate research work in Science in addition to the ordinary degree courses in Science.

Below the Colleges come the **High Schools,** usually at least one, either Government or aided, at the headquarter town of each district. These prepare students for the School Leaving Examination held by the Examination Board which has replaced both the University Matriculation and the Departmental School Final Examination, the latter of which qualifies for admission into the lower branches of the public service.

Side by side with the High Schools there are the **Middle Schools** which teach the first few standards only of the secondary school course of seven standards. There are also in some places separate high and middle schools for girls.

Below the secondary schools are a large number of **Primary Schools** both for boys and girls in which instruction is given in the vernacular to the vast mass of the people.

There are also institutions for the training of teachers for both secondary and primary schools maintained by Government, *viz.*, the Secondary Training College, Bombay, and the

Vernacular Training Colleges for men and women at Ahmedabad, Poona, Dhulia (for men only), Dharwar and Hyderabad. A certain number of district training schools have also been opened.

For technical and industrial education, there are the Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay, and the Reay Art Workshops attached to it, the V. J. Technical Institute, Bombay, which is now recognised as the central technological institution, for the Presidency, the Workshop classes of the College of Engineering, Poona, the School of Engineering attached to the D. J. Sind College at Karachi and a number of technical and industrial schools, notably the Ranchhodlal Chhotalal Technical Institute, Ahmedabad, the Parekh School of Art, Surat, the Sir D. M. Petit Industrial School, Ahmednagar, the School of Industry at Ratnagiri and the V. J. Technical Institute, Sukkur.

For the proper selection of text-books for use in secondary and primary schools there are six special committees; one, known as the Provincial School Book Committee, for the consideration of books for use in secondary schools, and five Vernacular School Book Committees for the consideration of books in Marathi, Gujarati, Kanarese, Sindhi and Urdu.

A Committee of Direction for Technical Education has also been constituted during the decade.

EDUCATION

[The figures in the summary relate to institutions in the British Districts only.]

Bombay Presidency.—The total number of recognised educational institutions in British Districts increased by 557 to 14,371 and the number of pupils in them by 64,145 to 1,037,061. The number of unrecognised institutions and the pupils in them decreased by 125 and 8,817 respectively. The net increase in the number of institutions and in that of pupils was thus 432 and 55,328 respectively. The percentage of male scholars under instruction in all kinds of institutions to the total male population was 8·56 as against 8·11 in the preceding year, while that of female scholars under instruction to the female population was 2·25 as against 2·14.

Hindu pupils in recognised institutions numbered 806,267, Mahomedans 173,543, Indian Christians 31,636, Parsis 17,070 and European and Anglo-Indians 4,913. Among the rest are included 800 Sikhs and 34 Budhists. Out of a total of 26,731 towns and villages, 10,237 possessed schools, the average area served by each town or village with a school being 12·1 square miles.

Expenditure.—The total expenditure on Public Instruction rose by over Rs. 37½ lakhs to about Rs. 376½ lakhs; Government

funds contributed 51·1 per cent., District Local Board funds 3·4 per cent., Municipal Board funds 17·4 per cent., fees 16·5 per cent., and other sources 11·6 per cent. Primary schools absorbed over Rs. 181 lakhs, exclusive of expenditure on inspection, construction, and repairs. Expenditure on buildings, furniture, and apparatus in recognised institutions amounted to nearly Rs. 33 lakhs as against Rs. 17½ lakhs in the preceding year.

University.—The number of candidates for the School Leaving Examination for the purposes of Matriculation decreased by 4 to 6,072, of whom 2,549 or 41·9 per cent. passed. The percentage of successful candidates at this examination in the previous year was 47·3. There were 693 successful candidates out of 1,708 examined for the Intermediate Examination in Arts, the percentage of passes being 40·5. The number of successful candidates at the B.A. Examination held in October 1925, and April 1926, was 598 against 485 in the preceding year. Of these, 189 obtained Honours—20 in class I and 169 in class II. At the B.Sc. Examination 138 candidates out of 250 examined were successful. Of the 92 candidates for the M.A. Examination 49 passed—2 in class I and 17 in class II. In examinations for Professional degrees, excluding the medical examinations, there were 536 successful candidates. The expenditure of the University as distinct from the individual colleges, and from the School of Economics and Sociology maintained by the University itself, was about Rs. 6 lakhs.

Arts Colleges.—The total number of students in the 14 Arts Colleges (including the Royal Institute of Science and the University School of Economics and Sociology) rose by 336 to 7,428, including 398 women as against 363 in the preceding year. The total expenditure on all Arts Colleges (excluding the Royal Institute of Science and the University School) was over Rs. 16½ lakhs, an increase of Rs. 57,800.

Professional Colleges.—The number of students in the Government Law College, Bombay, fell by 98 to 470, while the number in the Law College, Poona, rose by 32 to 438. The number of students receiving instruction in Commerce fell by 4 to 253, while the number of those receiving instruction in Engineering rose by 21 to 322.

Education in Art.—The number of students at the Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay, rose by 61 to 488, and that at the Ahmedabad School of Drawing and Design by 3 to 33. The Reay Art Workshops had 175 students on the rolls as against 148 in the preceding year.

Technical and Industrial Education.—Technical and Industrial schools decreased by one to 30, but the number of pupils in them increased by 3 to 2,205. The expenditure on these institutions increased by Rs. 39,800 to Rs. 5,70,800.

Secondary Schools (General).—The total number of Secondary schools increased by 18 to 496 and the number of pupils in them by 5,466 to 93,569, the total expenditure being over Rs. 70 lakhs, a rise of over Rs. 4½ lakhs.

High Schools.—High Schools for boys increased by 10 to 177 and the number of pupils in them by 4,793 to 63,036. The number of High Schools for Girls decreased by one to 45, while the number of pupils rose by 265 to 8,852.

Middle Schools.—The number of Middle Schools for Boys increased by 7 to 239 and the number of pupils by 228 to 18,788. The number of Middle Schools for Girls also increased by 2 to 35 and the number of pupils in them by 180 to 2,893.

Primary Schools.—Primary Schools for Boys increased by 532 to 11,950 and the number of pupils in them by 50,361 to 790,197. The number of girls under instruction in Primary Schools was 182,086, an increase of 11,672.

The number of District Local Board and Municipal Primary Schools for Boys and Girls increased by 636 to 10,866 and the number of pupils in them by 57,728 to 775,923, the corresponding increases for last year were 400 and 23,172. Aided schools decreased by 91 to 2,417 and the pupils in them by 706 to 125,901. Unaided schools, however, increased by 8 to 126, but the pupils in them decreased by 355 to 5,799. The number of schools for Adults increased by 22 to 191 and the number of pupils in them by 171 to 7,730. The total expenditure on Primary Education rose by over Rs. 11 lakhs to Rs. 181 lakhs. Of this Government contributed Rs. 114·8 lakhs, District Local Board funds Rs. 7·6 lakhs, Municipal funds Rs. 39 lakhs, fees Rs. 6 lakhs, and other sources Rs. 13·6 lakhs.

Training Institutions.—There were 15 Training Institutions for Men with 1,028 pupils, and 20 for Women with 682 pupils. Of these, 18, with 1,202 pupils, were under public management and 17 with 508 pupils under private management.

Mahomedans.—The total number of Mahomedans under instruction in recognised institutions increased by 11,209 to 173,543, of whom 24,040 were in Girls' schools. The number of Mahomedan pupils in Arts Colleges increased by 27 to 360 and that in Professional Colleges by 7 to 107. In Secondary schools the number increased by 491 to 7,544, in Primary schools by 10,365 to 160,055, and in Special schools by 319 to 5,477.

Intermediate Classes.—The total number of pupils under instruction increased by 28,631 to 411,385, classified as follows :—

(1) Marathas	120,513
(2) Cultivators (Kolis, Kunbis, etc.) ..	153,908
(3) Artisans	69,350
(4) Lingayats	67,614

Jungle, Criminal and Hill Tribes.—The total number of pupils increased by 396 to 24,877.

Depressed Classes.—The total number of pupils increased by 5,985 to 56,414.

Reformatory Schools.—There are three Reformatory Schools with 560 pupils (an increase of 40), which are under the control of the Educational Department. The Juvenile Jail School, Dharwar, which is managed by the Jail Department, had 229 pupils as against 210 in the preceding year.

Aden.—Two Secondary and three Primary Schools continued to be maintained by Government during the year ending March 31st, 1926. There were 200 scholars in the Secondary, and 353 in the Primary Schools or a total of 553 as compared with 511 last year. The total expenditure on these schools amounted to Rs. 16,668 of which Rs. 5,000 was contributed by the Aden Settlement. The Aden Port Trust also paid its third instalment of Rs. 5,000 towards the improvement of education which it undertook to do for five years in 1923.

Thirty-seven Private Day Schools were attended by 2,133 pupils. Twenty-five of these schools received grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 21,567. There were three aided Arabic Primary Night Schools attended by 222 pupils. The Industrial School, Crater, was attended by 96 pupils.

The total expenditure on education in Aden from all sources amounted to nearly Rs. 1 lakh of which Rs. 42,379 was contributed by Government.

YERAVDA REFORMATORY

There were 150 juveniles in the Reformatory School, Yeravda, their ages ranging from 10 to 17 years. Thirty-seven were Muhammadans, 6 Brahmins, 23 Depressed classes, 7 Christians, 1 Anglo-Indian, 5 Lingayats and 71 other Hindus.

"The general behaviour of the juveniles was satisfactory throughout and insubordination or disobedience was conspicuous by its absence," says the Superintendent of the Reformatory School. "There were only 8 minor offences involving 11 boys. One boy, a new-comer, planned escape by writing a letter to his friend outside, but the letter was

immediately detected. Another boy attempted escape by climbing on the roof, but was noticed by the monitor on duty. There was no actual escape. Caning, loss of monitorship, penal diet and flogging were the punishments inflicted for these offences. No boy was punished to grind corn during the year.

"Punishment is occasionally necessary but it is used as a last resort, the work of 'reforming' the boys being done through sympathetic measures and appeal to their self-respect. The number of offences is gradually declining from year to year and I am glad to report that it is to a great extent due to the good influence of the senior boys over new-comers."

The health of the inmates continued to be good on the whole. The total number of in-patients in the school hospital was 66 as against 96 last year, while the daily average number of out-door patients treated for minor ailments such as wounds, or accidents in games was 42·72 as against 31·38 in the previous year.

Six trades were taught in the school where 18 boys were engaged in carpentry, 14 in smithy, 22 in painting, 14 in book-binding, 17 in tailoring and 63 in gardening and agriculture.

Agriculture is an important industry in this school and His Excellency the Governor of Bombay was pleased to remark at the time of his visit to the school:—"It is also to my mind, most important that the boys should be given as much training as possible in agriculture, for so many of them come from agricultural districts, and will, I hope, return there, and will utilize, for the benefit of the most important industry in India, the knowledge which they have acquired here."

An Urdu class was added during the year under report and primary education was imparted in the school up to the fifth standard in Marathi, Gujarati and Urdu. Moral instruction was given in the school-room once a week by class-teachers.

Forty-five boys were discharged during the year—20 in the first half and 25 in the second half of the year. The first half-yearly reports on the 20 boys show that one boy died while the remaining 19 were employed as under :—

Four worked as carpenters, 1 as a goldsmith, 2 as tailors, 1 in agriculture, 2 are with parents, 1 in the Royal Sappers and Miners, Poona, 6 as servants with different employers, while one was re-convicted and there was no trace of one.

The total number of boys discharged during the last three years (1922-24) was 149. Of these 74 are occupied in trade and agriculture, 4 are with parents, 38 are untraceable, 14 are re-convicted, and 2 have died.

The gross maintenance charges amounted to Rs. 44,753 as against Rs. 45,265 last year, while the earnings of the school were Rs. 1,746. The average net cost per boy per annum was Rs. 299-11-3.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

In discussing the Vernacular Literature of the Bombay Presidency for 1925-26, Mr. E. A. Wodehouse, I.E.S., Professor of English, Deccan College, Poona, says :—

"The number of books submitted for review remains more or less the same as in previous years, as does the distribution of these under subject-headings. Nor is there any notable variation in quality. As usual, there are a few good books which do high credit to their writers ; but there are still many, the admission of which into print can only be accounted for by the somewhat slack conditions prevailing in the Indian book-buying and publishing worlds. The publisher continues to be, in many cases, indistinguishable from the simple printer. Many writers get their books published by private individuals. Several are their own publishers. Indeed a feature of the year's book-list is the large number of publishers in proportion to the number of works issued, the ratio being roughly about seven to ten. This means, of course, that the book-trade is not yet a going concern. Either the number of readers is too small, or potential readers are unable, or unwilling, to spend money on the purchase of books. For where the market is a live one, the big publisher, with his long list of novelties and his exacting standards, is sure to be in evidence. As it is, the articulation of the publishing trade into scattered units shows only too clearly that the conditions belonging to strenuous and healthy competition are still undeveloped—in other words, that neither the prizes which stimulate the highest excellence nor the alert criticism which penalises bad work are as yet, in a general way, effective. The writing of books is mostly confined to people who possess private incomes of their own, or who earn their main livelihood in some other way, and for whom such writing is rather a hobby than a serious occupation. A literary career, in the commercial sense in which the words are ordinarily understood, is as yet non-existent.

"All this has its obvious results. Where little is at stake either one way or the other, standards will inevitably become slackened. One almost certain symptom of this will be a shrinking from the hard labour which, in a genuinely competitive atmosphere, is a precondition of literary success. In the world of creative literature this will show itself, chiefly, in an unwilling-

ness to study technique. In the realm of learned writings, or in treatises upon large subjects of public interest, it will reveal itself in the three related faults of hastiness, prejudice and superficiality, resulting from the fact that the writers, in too many cases, have not taken the trouble to make themselves thoroughly masters of their themes. We could wish, that there was less evidence of these failings in the literature under review. But, conditions being what they are, it is almost inevitable that we should find them ; and it has to be confessed that the vernacular output of 1925-26 has them in full measure. There are several novelists, for example, whose books have passed the toll-gate of the publishers, who have still to learn the A B C of their trade ; while, in the case of writers on learned or public subjects, there are one or two who, one feels, would have profited by a few years' more study before venturing into print. To blame such writers would be unfair. They are the necessary product of the conditions. It is more to the point to consider what agencies are required, in order that the conditions may be changed. One, of course, is the spread of education, with its automatic multiplication of the book-buying public. Another is an increased affluence, which will enable more money to be spent on books. When these have been achieved, competition will come of itself and standards be automatically raised all along the line. In the meantime, only two things, in our opinion, would be efficacious, and both of them are probably impracticable. The first is a lavish and discriminating system of patronage. The second is the advent of the big book-publisher, willing to advertise and to organise sales and so to stimulate the existing book-buying market. Unfortunately, patronage in India died before its date and would be difficult to revive ; while the big publisher will hardly come into existence until the market, by its own natural process of growth, is ready for him. We can only hope that the rapid changes, through which the general life of India is passing at present, may ere long bring about a condition of things in which the vernacular literatures will be able to thrive. One change, of course, which would make much difference, would be the enlistment of the most distinguished talent of the country in the service of letters. At present the best brains tend, for the most part, to be absorbed into other lines of activity—journalism, politics, law. The release of these, for literary purposes, would produce an immediate transformation ; but it can, of course, only happen when conditions make it worth while—in other words, when the prospective gains of a literary career are at least equal to those

to be won in other fields. It is the earnest hope of all who are interested in the future of the Indian vernacular literatures that this desirable state of affairs may not be too long in coming about. Till it comes, we must be content with the rather disappointing quality of general output, resulting from stagnation, and the lack of inducement to first-rate work, which it is the somewhat invidious duty of the annual reviewer to draw attention to from year to year.

" On the whole, the periodical literature of the Presidency, both in Marathi and in Gujarati, would appear to be in a fairly flourishing condition ; and our impression is that it affords, at present, a more attractive field to literary talent than the more ambitious world of book production. This is, of course, sufficiently explained on economic grounds ; which only brings us back, in conclusion, to the considerations with which this review opened—namely to a recognition of the general economic influences which are at work in the vernacular literary world of to-day. Things are bound to remain in a backward condition, so far as all writing is concerned, until the financial risk and the financial burden are lifted from the shoulders of the would-be author. There is plenty of talent about, if it could only find the environment in which to function freely. And it is just because, for the moment, the magazine world offers slightly better conditions, in the sense of immediate returns and an absence of personal risk, that the general quality of its output is superior to that of the book-market."

The total number of publications registered during the year decreased by 73 to 3,495. There were 2,066 books published of which 590 were in Marathi ; other languages used were Gujarati (553), Sindhi (233), English (191), Urdu (93), Classical languages (72), Kanarese (59), Hindi (48), Konkani and other dialects (21), while 206 books were in more than one language.

In addition to books there were 1,429 issues of periodical publications as distinct from newspapers. " Miscellaneous " works accounted for more than half of the total number of publications, *i.e.*, 1,793. Then came works of " Poetry " with 431 books followed by " Religion " 360.

NEWSPAPERS

At the end of the year 1925 there were in all 255 newspapers dealing with current political topics as against 205 newspapers in the previous year. Ninety newspapers were started during the year under report and 47 publications ceased to exist. Of these 255 newspapers, 83 were published in the City of Bombay ; 38 in the Northern Division ; 44 in the Central

Division ; 27 in the Southern Division ; 51 in Sind ; and 12 in the Indian States. Ninety-five or about 37 per cent. were conducted by Brahmins ; 100 by other Hindus ; 9 by Jains ; 12 by Parsis ; 32 by Muhammadans ; and 7 by Christians. Six per cent. were published in English ; 30 per cent. in Marathi ; 26 per cent. in Gujarati ; 3 per cent. in Hindi ; 4 per cent. in Kanarese ; 3 per cent. in Urdu ; 15 per cent. in Sindhi and the remaining 13 per cent. were bi-lingual or tri-lingual newspapers.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, BOMBAY

The Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society had 521 resident and 172 non-resident members at the close of the year 1925.

The issues of books and periodicals during the year amounted to 61,500, of which 14,000 were new books, 21,000 periodicals and 26,500 old books. The largest issue, about 21,000, was under fiction, while miscellaneous stood second (2,300) and biography third (2,200). During the year 1,803 volumes were added to the Library, of which 1,390 were purchased and 413 were presented. Forty-five new coins were added to the cabinet of the Society. The Society received 510 Treasure Trove coins during the year.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, BOMBAY

The Museum was open to the public for 312 days during the year, and the number of visitors was 951,000 against 970,000 for 1924-25 ; the decrease is attributed to the mill strikes. A large number of specimens of horn and ivory, brass, copper and silver work, paper pulp mixed with clay, textiles and stone work were added to the Industrial section.

PRINCE OF WALES MUSEUM OF WESTERN INDIA

The number of visitors during the year was satisfactory, and a census taken as usual for three days during the year showed a very large increase to over 1,100 a day. Special facilities have been given to students of Bombay University and to the members of the Bombay Numismatic Society and similar bodies.

The Museum is divided into three sections, Art, Archæology and Natural History.

The chief work during the year was the labelling and description of exhibits and the exhibition of articles in new show cases. The issue of vernacular labels was continued. Guide books have been written for the Buddhistic and Brahmanical galleries and the collection of Persian and Arabic inscriptions and the talismanic cups. Two are now on sale at the Museum, in addition to the previously printed catalogue of the Western Pictures.

In the Archæological section the chief additions during the year were some large temple lamps, images and sculptures from Gadag and Hubli, an image of Vighnantaka, a bronze Jain image from Chopda, pottery excavated at the Elephanta cave, stone implements received from Mr. Seton Karr and terra-cotta plaques with the figure of Buddha. The bricks, pottery and enamelled tiles from Sind, the Persian and Arabic inscription stones, and other exhibits have been rearranged, deciphered and assigned. Additional photographs of antiquities were placed on view. Many interesting coins added to the coin cabinet.

Lady Ratan Tata further enriched the Art Section by a collection of Indian brass work. Mr. A. Hydari, Finance Minister, Hyderabad State, has lent for three years a series of reproductions of the Ajanta caves painted by Mr. Syed Ahmed.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

In the Natural History Section a Kashmir stag, a porpoise, a swamp deer, a giant squirrel, a pangolim, a hogbadger, a hare and a straight-horned markhor are among the mammals which were set up and exhibited during the year. The large number of birds added to the gallery include a pair of pea-fowl, a fine example of Himalayan laemmergeyer (bearded vulture) with a wing expanse of 11 feet, presented by Mr. Whistler, a sarus crane, a painted partridge and others. A nest containing a female with her young of the great Indian hornbill has been presented by Mr. Tuggerse. Casts of snakes and fish have been prepared. Preparations for exhibiting invertebrate specimens on instructive lines have been made.

Original notes and papers relating to various exhibits have been prepared by the officials for publication in the journals of some of the learned Societies. Preliminary arrangements for preparing a series of illustrated charts dealing with the animal life of India, for the use of schools, are being made.

VICTORIA MUSEUM, KARACHI

The Museum continues to grow in popularity. The number of visitors during the year 1925-26 was nearly 300,000, showing an increase of 20,000 over the previous year. Increasing interest is being shown by female visitors who numbered 89,500 as against 86,300 in the previous year. A large number of teachers and students, both male and female, from various colleges and schools visited the Museum regularly and the Professors of the D. J. College and other teachers were permitted to use Museum exhibits to illustrate their lectures.

MOHENJO-DARO, DISTRICT LARKANA—BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE EXCAVATED AREA

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CHAPTER XII

ARCHÆOLOGY

THE grant for the year was Rs. 1,18,600 against Rs. 83,800 of the previous year. Out of the total allotment, Rs. 22,800 were placed at the disposal of the Circle Superintendent for carrying out repairs departmentally, and the balance of Rs. 95,800 was assigned to the Public Works Department for repairs done by that agency. The total expenditure incurred on conservation was Rs. 97,860, of which Rs. 22,740 were spent by the Superintendent, and the remainder of Rs. 75,120 (excluding agency charges) was utilised by the Public Works Department. Besides the central allotment the Archæological Superintendent received Rs. 2,500 from the Bombay Government for continuing works inside the Shanwar Wada in Poona City, and Rs. 350 through the Honourable Mr. B. V. Jadhav, Minister of Education, Bombay, for continuing the preliminary work of clearance of *debris* from the house of the Killedar on the hill-fort of Shivneri, at Junnar in the Poona District.

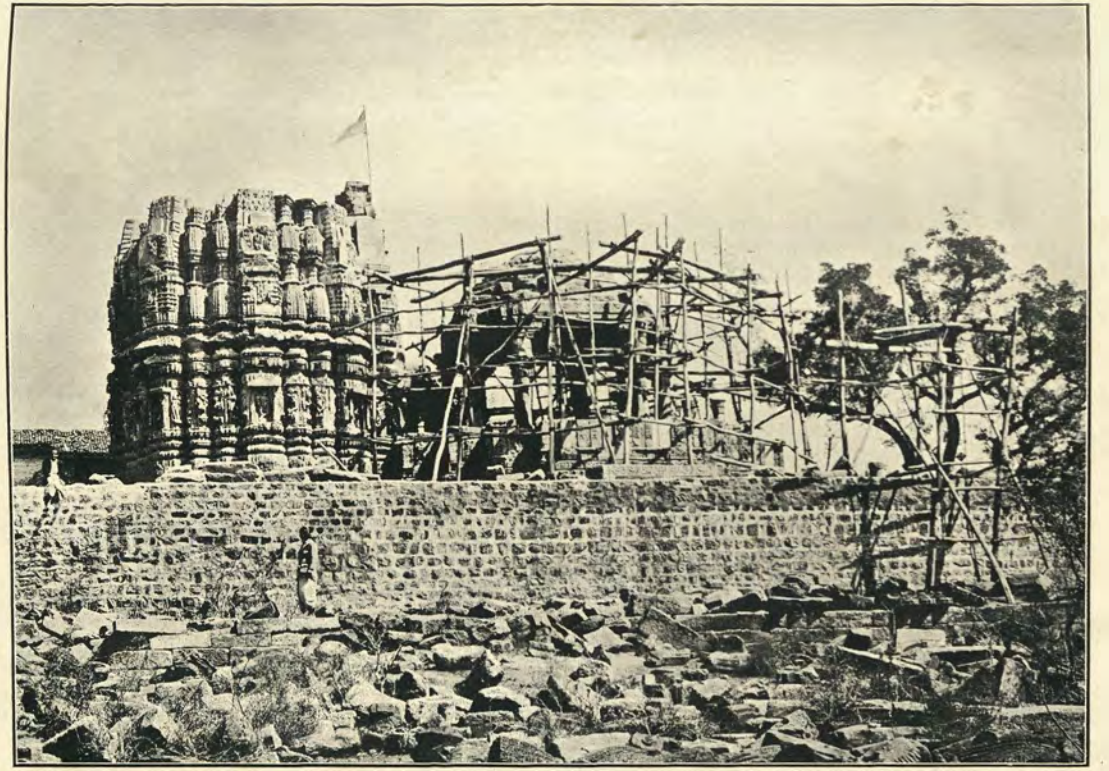
The Archæological Department commenced the special repairs to the Caves at Jogeshvari near Andheri in the Bombay Suburban District and continued such repairs which were in progress last year at Galteshvara Mahadeva Temple at Sarnal in the Kaira District; at Elephanta in the Kolaba District; at Shanwar Wada, Junnar and Nanaghat in the Poona District and at the Fort and the Faria Bagh Palace in the Ahmednagar District.

The Public Works Department carried out special repairs to the ancient remains at Raygadh in the Kolaba District; the Gol Gumbaz at Bijapur, the Virupaksha Temple at Pattadkal, the Naganath Temple near Badami, the Charanthi Matha at Aiholi in the Bijapur District; the Raipur Gate to the Ahmedabad City, the Mansar Talao at Viramgam in the Ahmedabad District; the Bhamaria Well at Mehmadabad in the Kaira District; the Kathra Masjid (Two Brick Minars), Ek-Minar-ki Masjid, Panch-Mahuda-ki Masjid, Gebal Shah's Well, Jami Masjid, Sadan Shah Gateway to Pavagadh in the Panch Mahals District.

The remarkable excavations at Mohenjo-daro in the Larkana District of Sind were continued on an extensive scale during

the working season of the year under review. Here no fewer than three Circle Superintendents of the different archæological Circles in India were busily engaged in revealing a pre-historic civilization hitherto hidden in the Valley of the Indus for about 5,000 years. The whole work of digging was carried out according to the instructions and under the general supervision of the Director-General of Archæology in India. Of the vast numbers of finds made by the Superintendent of the Western Circle, a silver vase containing ornaments of gold, silver and stone beads ; a bust of a bearded man made of alabaster, one necklace of gold beads having agate pendants and a piece of silver bearing cuneiform writings similar to Babylonian scripts, deserve special mention. The system of drains constructed of plain, moulded and glazed bricks which are still in an excellent state of preservation, is one of the most interesting features of the remains at Mohenjo-daro. They are connected to almost all the bathing platforms of the dwelling-houses and lead to the nearest main drain with cess-pits at intervals. Besides the expenditure incurred by other Circle Officers the Superintendent of the Western Circle, Poona, usefully utilised Rs. 15,221 in unearthing the site taken up by him.

A sum of Rs. 57,500 was spent on the upkeep of the Office of the Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Western Circle, during the year 1925-26.



GATESVARA MAHADEVA TEMPLE AT SARNAL IN THE KAIRA DISTRICT SHOWING PROGRESS OF CONSERVATION WORK

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CHAPTER XIII

MISCELLANEOUS

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

THE Church Establishments maintained by the State in the Presidency are those of the Established Church of England and the Established Church of Scotland. Certain allowances are also granted by Government to the Roman Catholic Church and the Wesleyan Church for ministrations to troops, etc.

THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Since 1837 Bombay has been a separate Diocese.

The Diocese includes the territories within the limits of the Presidency of Bombay excepting Sind, which was transferred to the Diocese of Lahore in 1877.

The Right Reverend Edwin James Palmer, M.A., D.D., Bishop of Bombay, proceeded on six months' leave to England on the 1st May 1925 returning to India on the 1st November 1925 and thereafter was on duty the rest of the year.

The Assistant Bishop, the Right Reverend P. H. Loyd, M.A., held Confirmations on behalf of the Bishop of Bombay during the latter's absence in England, at Deolali, St. Mary's Poona and Kirkee.

The Venerable W. F. M. Hamerton, M.A., Archdeacon of Bombay, was on duty throughout the year except for a period of three months towards the end of the year. The Reverend W. A. Sawtell, A.K.C., acted for the Archdeacon of Bombay from the 11th November 1925 to end of the year.

The year opened with 13 Chaplains on duty. Three Chaplains were on leave and four died during the year.

The number of Confirmations decreased from 712 to 579 and there were eight ordinations during the year.

The Reverend L. B. Butcher, Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, Western India, and the Reverend C. F. W. Hatchell, formerly Archdeacon of Bombay, were installed as Honorary Canons of St. Thomas' Cathedral, Bombay, during the year.

THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

The Church of Scotland in this Presidency was placed on its present basis in 1837. Of the four Chaplains now holding

appointments, one is of the Senior rank, one is a Junior Chaplain, and the other two are Chaplains on probation. Two Chaplains in the employment of the Army Department are at present serving under the jurisdiction of the Presidency Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland.

There are at present five Presbyterian Churches and several other buildings used for Divine service scattered throughout the Presidency of Bombay.

The Reverend J. D. Mitchell proceeded on eight months' leave on the 13th March 1926, being relieved by the Reverend G. C. Macpherson.

During 1925-26 St. Andrew's Church, Bombay, and the churches at Quetta, Poona, Karachi and Aden were served by Chaplains on the Bombay Ecclesiastical Establishment of the Church of Scotland. At Kirkee the duties were performed by a Wesleyan Chaplain, at Mhow by a Missionary of the Canadian Presbyterian Mission of Central India, at Belgaum by a Missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Nasirabad by a Missionary of the United Free Church of Scotland and at Deesa and Mount Abu by a Missionary of the Irish Presbyterian Church. All Chaplains and acting Chaplains of the Church of Scotland minister to His Majesty's Forces and Civilians.

STATIONERY

During the year the Headquarters of the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, were transferred from Poona to Charni Road Gardens, Bombay. All the stationery and drawing articles stored in the Town Hall were removed to the new building. Three hundred and twenty-five type-writing machines were repaired by the office and eighty were entrusted to outside firms. During the year contracts for the supply of paper were given to the Indian Couper Paper Mills Company for cream laid, the Deccan Paper Mills, Poona, for printing paper and Messrs. D. Pudumjee & Co., Bombay, for Badami paper. The total value of the paper supplied to Government Presses was nearly Rs. 3 lakhs.

PRINTING

Government Central Press, Bombay.—A noteworthy feature of the year was the great increase of outturn in machine and Press and a general decrease in the rates in almost all operations. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 7¾ lakhs, an increase of Rs. ½ lakh over the preceding year, and the cost of paper, binding and rubber stamp materials was Rs. 1·05 lakhs.

Yeravda Prison Press, Poona.—The outturn of the year rose considerably owing to increase of work in all sections of the Press. There was a general decrease in the rates. The total value of the work done was over Rs. 5 lakhs.

Commissioner in Sind's Press, Karachi.—The total receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 1·70 lakhs against Rs. 1·64 lakhs, while the total expenditure was Rs. 1·26 lakhs against Rs. 1·25 lakhs in the preceding year.

Government Book Depot, Bombay.—Owing to the transfer of Headquarters from Poona to Bombay, the Book Depot was removed to Bombay and is temporarily located in the Town Hall in the space vacated by the Stationery Stores. The total value of the maps issued was Rs. 3,373 against Rs. 3,898 in the preceding year and realisations from the sales of Government publications amounted to Rs. 19,400 against Rs. 14,500.

Government Photozinco Press, Poona.—The total turnover of the Press was Rs. 1,39,000.

Back Bay Reclamation

Out of a total length of 21,578 feet, 19,728 feet of the sea wall were completed in all respects, with the exception of the parapet, leaving a gap of 1,850 feet remaining to be done. There was no damage to any part of the work during the monsoon of 1925.

Owing to the closing down of work on the sea wall and the majority of the storm-water drains, the output of stone was much less than in former years, 44,000 tons as against 290,975 tons in 1924-25. During the greater part of the year, the rolling stock was employed in running dry earth filling from the quarry, the quantity of which showed a considerable increase, 421,500 tons as against 182,282 tons during the previous year. The manufacture of precast blocks for storm-water drains was stopped in April 1925, and only twenty blocks were made during the year. The quarry workshop was employed in making a large quantity of spares of various descriptions for the dredging section. About 1¼ miles of additional 5 feet 6 inches gauge siding were laid to keep up with the excavation for dry filling.

Marine Lines Section.—No work was done on the sea wall in this section. The progress on storm-water drains Nos. 6 and 7 was maintained, 31,910 cubic feet and 53,225 cubic feet, respectively, of cement concrete having been deposited during the year.

A bank of moorum was tipped on the inside of the sea wall from zero to the cross bund at Churchgate Station, so as to render the rubble mound impervious and prevent the escape of dredged filling from block 1. Filling with building rubbish brought by lorries was commenced near Churchgate Station, and 1,602,207 cubic feet had been deposited at the close of the year.

Colaba Section.—The mass concrete wall was completed during the year, from R. D. 10,056 to 11,714 or a length of 1,658 linear feet. A bank of moorum was tipped on the inside of the sea wall for the whole distance enclosing the military area, and the cross bund between this area and block 7 was rendered impervious in the same way. Storm-water drains Nos. 1A and 2 were completed in all respects during the year, works on Nos. 3, 4 and 5 being kept in abeyance. A considerable quantity of surfacing with dry earth was carried out at the extreme south of the military area.

Dredging Section.—Dredging operations in the harbour for the season 1924-25 ceased on the 15th May 1925, when the plant was laid up for the monsoon, during which all the craft were overhauled. Pumping operations were commenced, working double shift, on the 13th October 1925, the material being discharged into the military area. The Intermediate Pumping Station " Colaba " was taken out of commission in November, in order to enable certain stiffening of the hull to be carried to obviate the excessive vibration, which had developed, whilst the vessel was pumping. This necessitated the conduct of dredging operations being done by the " Sir George Lloyd " alone until the " Colaba " was re-fitted to take up her duty in March 1926, since when the pumping operations continued without further interruption until 13th May 1926, when work closed for the monsoon. Prior to the season 1925-26, a considerable amount of the finer material pumped into the military area had been lost by passing through the voids in the rubble mound forming the sea wall. During the season 1925-26, however, the conditions were entirely different, owing to the sealing of the sea wall and cross bund with moorum. The material was pumped into what was virtually a water-tight compartment, in which the water level was maintained at a high level, the excess water being allowed to escape over a weir in such a way as to ensure the retention in the area of as much as possible of the fine material. The consequence is that the quantity of filling retained in the area bears a much larger proportion to the quantity dredged from the harbour than was the case in former years.

The dredger " Kalu " commenced work in Back Bay on the 15th November 1925. The material found in the Back Bay has proved to be less suitable for this class of dredger than that in the harbour and the output is in consequence restricted. The material is, however, excellent for reclamation purposes. The pumping season in Back Bay ended on 29th April 1926, when the " Kalu " was removed to her monsoon berth in the harbour. The quantity of material dredged as ascertained from soundings was 1,828,000 cubic yards in the harbour and 372,900 cubic yards in Back Bay.

From the report of the Sanitary Committee for the year ending 31st March 1926, it appears that owing to the attention given by the members of the Sanitary Committee, and the Directorate sanitary staff working under their instructions, the sanitary conditions at Colaba have not been adversely affected by the pumping operations. Judging by the figures given by the Committee of the incidence of malaria amongst the troops at Colaba, it would seem, indeed, that the reverse has been the case.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING IN BOMBAY

During the financial year 1924-25 it was decided by Government that the Housing Scheme should, for the present, be restricted to the construction of 211 chawls : 121 at Worli, 32 at DeLisle Road, 42 at Naigaum and 16 at Sewri. Owing to certain difficulties the programme of chawls at Sewri was reduced by 4 chawls. Thus the total number of chawls constructed is 207. These 207 chawls have been completed in all respects, including water-supply, sewerage, storm-water drainage and lighting. At Worli, DeLisle Road and Naigaum the roads and open spaces have been lighted by electricity, but current is not at present available at Sewri. The earlier chawls fitted with concrete windows were altered and shuttered windows of the ordinary type provided. Except at Sewri there was a sudden fall in the number of occupied rooms from the end of September 1925, which was mainly due to the mill-strike. There was, however, an appreciable increase from the middle of January 1926, when the strike ended. Towards the end of the year, the demand was again normal. On the whole, the demand for rooms in the various centres is more satisfactory this year than in the previous one, the number of occupied rooms on 31st March 1926 being 3,396 against 3,180 on 31st March 1925. This is probably due to the additional conveniences afforded to the tenants by the substitution of open wooden windows for the closed cement ones and the supply of water throughout day and night.

One chawl on plot "B" Naigaum was converted into two- and three-roomed tenements with separate water taps for the accommodation of better paid workmen. At the end of the year about one half of the rooms in the chawl were occupied.

There is a good demand for shops at DeLisle Road. The demand at Naigaum and Worli is poor. At the latter centre, the paucity of tenants is the cause, while at Naigaum it is anticipated that the shops will gradually be occupied as the number of tenants in block "B" where all the shops are situated, increases. At the end of the year, there were only seven chawls occupied in this block out of a total number of 23. The demand for shops at Sewri will increase proportionately to the increase of tenants. At present all the shops in the occupied chawls at this centre are occupied and a few applications were received for shops in the vacant chawls, but these requests had to be refused as the chawls had not been thrown open for occupation.

The ground floor of a chawl at Worli has been converted into a market as an experimental measure. The market will be opened as soon as the Municipality grants a license. It is believed that the scheme will meet with success as there are a good number of applicants for stalls. As there are markets in the neighbourhood of Naigaum, DeLisle Road and Sewri, the need of this amenity is not felt at those centres.

There was a marked increase in the number of absconders at Naigaum, DeLisle Road and Worli, during the months September to November, which was mostly due to the "exodus" of mill-hands during the strike.

An amount of Rs. 76,383-3-9 was written off during the year as irrecoverable rents. These writes-off were due to tenants' absconding and to their whereabouts not being traceable. Every effort is now being made to record the correct addresses of tenants, so that absconders may be followed up, and the rents due recovered.

The combined death rate for the four centres was 7·60 per thousand.

INDUSTRIAL SCHEMES

Suburban Scheme No. 1—Kurla-Kirol.—There was no progress during the year except that the G. I. P. Railway acquired about 26½ acres of land near Kurla Station for a car shed and sidings, and are in correspondence with the Department regarding the possibility of their taking over approximately one hundred acres in the Kurla-Kirol scheme for staff quarters.

Suburban Scheme No. 2—Trombay, North-East.—The question of the removal of the Dharavi tanneries to this area is

still undecided. One of the roads in the sanctioned layout of the scheme was constructed during the year to provide access to the new explosives depot at Mani built under the Military Lands Scheme, the Board of Control contributing 25 per cent. of the cost. The length of the Sion-Trombay Road from Borla to Trombay was handed back to the District Local Board for maintenance on 27th May 1925.

Suburban Scheme No. 15—Ambernath.—During the year an area of 12,698 square yards was sold to the G. I. P. Railway for extension of the goods yard to meet the increasing traffic, and the Western India Match Factory took up an additional area of 20,922 square yards for further staff and workmen's quarters. No applications for sites for new factories were received.

SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

The slight improvement in the land market in the suburban area was maintained during the year and there was a steady increase in the number of persons applying for advances under the State-aided building scheme. The advances actually made in the last two years were as follows :—

Year	Number of persons who were granted advances	Total amount of advances on land and building
		Rs.
1924-25	19	1,43,081
1925-26	33	2,85,215

Apart from the extensions of the water-supply and the prospect of an electric train service in the near future, the suburban area is now assured of a supply of electric power for lighting and other purposes. The license granted by Government to Messrs. Killick Nixon and Company and Messrs. Callender's Cable and Construction Company has recently been published and the work of providing the necessary cables in the compulsory area of Bandra is to be undertaken forthwith.

TOWN PLANNING SCHEMES

Santa Cruz Town Planning Scheme No. 4 and Vile Parle Town Planning Scheme No. 2 were undertaken during the year and good progress was made.

SUBURBAN SCHEMES

Suburban Scheme No. 3—Trombay, North-West.—The layout of the Chembur sector of this scheme has been slightly modified to suit the requirements of the St. Anthony's Homes

Co-operative Society, to whom developed plots aggregating 70,643 square yards have been allotted. There was no further development in this scheme during the year.

Suburban Scheme No. 6—Danda.—Owing to the extra amount paid for land as a result of references in the Thana Court the prices of plots in this scheme have been increased from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 per square yard for plots facing the sea, and from Rs. 7-8-0 to Rs. 8-8-0 per square yard for interior plots. At the end of the year a total of 18,281 square yards of a value of Rs. 1,34,680 had been disposed of. Work on the extension of Turner Road was also commenced during the year.

Suburban Scheme No. 7—Khar Model Suburb.—The demand for plots in this scheme continued brisk. The market site in sector A has now been handed over to the Bandra Municipality. The total area disposed of at the end of the year was 170,170 square yards of a value of Rs. 9,88,380 in sectors A and B, and 8,360 square yards valued at Rs. 54,810 in sectors C and D. The construction of 80 bungalows has been completed and 20 were in course of construction at the end of the year.

Suburban Scheme No. 8—Chapel Road.—The roads in this scheme were handed over to the Bandra Municipality for maintenance on the 12th January 1926. The scheme showed a surplus on 31st March 1925, which will be increased by the proceeds of the remaining plots, when sold.

RAILWAY SCHEMES

Suburban Scheme No. 17—Central Salsette Railway.—Owing to unexpected delay in the completion of the overbridge at Kurla by the G. I. P. Railway, it was not possible to start an experimental tramway service. As a result of negotiations with the G. I. P. Railway, it is probable that that Administration will take over the line and rolling stock, and work a tramway service on behalf of Government.

Suburban Scheme No. 22—Kurla-Trombay Railway.—As a result of certain negotiations, the G. I. P. Railway offered to take over the Kurla-Trombay line, recouping to Government the expenditure, with interest, incurred up to 31st March 1925, and to complete the extension to Mandala—Government to pay interest at 6 per cent. on the whole expenditure, including that on the extension, for ten years, after which Government would incur no further liability. As an alternative, it was proposed that Government should pay, in one sum, the present value of the ten annual interest payments. The latter alternative

was accepted by Government, and the formal sanction of the Railway Board to the proposed transfer is awaited.

MILITARY (INDIAN AUXILIARY AND TERRITORIAL FORCES)

Auxiliary Force.—The situation of the Auxiliary Force continued to be satisfactory, and the strength of the units in officers and men was maintained. For the second year in succession the Gwalior Cup was won by a battery of the V (Bombay) Field Brigade, R. A. The introduction of the New Regulations for the Army in India Reserve of Officers gives officers and other ranks of the Auxiliary Force (India) an opportunity of being enrolled as " Officers designate " in the Reserve. The favourable conditions of pay and allowances and the lapse of time allowed to individuals for joining on mobilization should encourage enrolment in the Reserve. The Bombay University Training Corps continues to make satisfactory progress.

Karachi Corps Auxiliary Force.—Recruiting was satisfactory during the year though enrolment in the Infantry has not been too good. The men enrolling show a preference for technical branches. The expansion of the Light Horse Troop at Karachi is handicapped by the expense of obtaining suitable horses.

The 2nd Battalion, B. B. & C. I. Railway Regiment, held a successful standing Camp at Neemuch.

At Karachi all arms were exercised with their particular weapons and satisfactory progress recorded. Short training Camps were held and well attended.

The Sind Rifles reported a very gratifying keenness on the part of the Parsi N. C. Os. A Cadet Platoon formed from the scholars of the Karachi Grammar School is promising very well.

Territorial Force.—1 1/4 Bombay Grenadiers is the only unit in the Command.

Recruiting has been most satisfactory and sanction has been accorded to raise a Company of Deoli Minas. It is hoped to bring up the Battalion to full strength in the near future.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Bombay and Karachi Societies.—During the year 1925 the Agents of the Society in Bombay City prosecuted in 11,707 cases of cruelty to animals. In 10,942 cases fines were inflicted, in 99 cases the offenders were fined or in default sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, in 584 the accused were warned and discharged, and in 45 the accused were acquitted. 1,754 animals were sent to the Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital

for Animals for treatment, while 4 animals in cruelty cases and 206 other animals sent from the Hospital and found to be suffering from incurable diseases were sent to the Pinjrapole at Bombay. In Bandra there were 490 prosecutions, fines being inflicted in 477 cases. In 7 cases the accused were warned and discharged. The whole of the fines levied in cruelty cases prosecuted by the Society's Agents are given to the Society after deducting certain charges. The amount thus received by the Society in 1925 was Rs. 43,239 out of the total receipts of Rs. 44,807. The expenditure was Rs. 41,693.

In Karachi there were 2,639 cases of cruelty to animals prosecuted by the Inspectors of the Society and 2,622 convictions were obtained. The total realisations from fine by the Society's Karachi Branch including arrears of the previous year were Rs. 11,300.

ADVANCES TO CULTIVATORS*

Northern Division.—The total amount advanced as takavi totalled 61,543 as against Rs. 5,182 during the previous year, the increase being due to the unfavourable nature of the season. Out of the total outstanding of Rs. 20·28 lakhs at the beginning of the year, Rs. 4·55 lakhs were recovered and Rs. 68,907 were suspended.

Central Division†

Southern Division.—The year opened with an outstanding balance of Rs. 17·13 lakhs. Advances and collections during the year amounted to Rs. 1·51 lakhs and Rs. 3·13 lakhs respectively. The total outstanding was Rs. 15·50 lakhs. Seven hundred and fifty seven takavi works at Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwar and Kanara were in progress.

Sind.—Takavi advances amounted to Rs. 1·85 lakhs against Rs. 3·09 lakhs in the previous year. The decrease was shared by all the districts except Thar Parkar where increase was due to liberal grants under the Agriculturists' Loans Act on account of the scarcity of fodder caused by scanty rainfall. The total outstandings amounted to Rs. 15·05 lakhs, of which Rs. 4·82 lakhs were collected.

It should be noted that the figures for outstandings and collections do not mean that the amount was due for collection during the year. They represent the total amount of advances outstanding but not necessarily due for collection in the year under review.

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* This note was received too late for inclusion in Chapter V.
† Information not received.

APPENDIX I

RESERVED SUBJECTS

(1) Water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power.
(2) Land Revenue Administration.
(3) Famine Relief.
(4) Land Acquisition.
(5) Administration of Justice.
(6) Provincial Law Reports.
(7) Administrator-General and Official Trustee.
(8) Non-judicial stamps ; judicial stamps.
(9) Development of mineral resources which are Government property.
(10) Industrial matters, included under the following heads :—
  (*a*) Factories ;
  (*b*) Settlement of labour disputes ;
  (*c*) Electricity ;
  (*d*) Boilers ;
  (*e*) Gas ;
  (*f*) Smoke Nuisances ; and
  (*g*) Welfare of labour and housing.
(11) Ports (with certain exceptions).
(12) Inland water-ways, including shipping and navigation, not declared central subjects.
(13) Police, including railway police.
(14) (*a*) Regulation of betting and gambling ;
  (*b*) Prevention of cruelty to animals ;
  (*c*) Protection of wild birds and animals ;
  (*d*) Control of poisons ;
  (*e*) Control of motor vehicles ; and
  (*f*) Control of dramatic performances and cinematographs.
(15) Control of newspapers, books and printing presses.
(16) Coroners.
(17) Excluded Areas.
(18) Criminal Tribes.
(19) European vagrancy.
(20) Prisons, prisoners (except State prisoners) and reformatories.
(21) Pounds and prevention of cattle trespass.
(22) Treasure trove.
(23) Provincial Government Presses.
(24) Elections, Indian and Provincial.
(25) Regulation of medical and other professional qualifications and standards.
(26) Local Fund Audit

(27) Control of members of all-India and provincial services serving within the province and control of public services within the province other than all-India services.

(28) Sources of provincial revenue—

(*a*) taxes included in the Schedules to the Scheduled Taxes Rules, or

(*b*) taxes, not included in those Schedules, which are imposed by or under provincial legislation which has received the previous sanction of the Governor General.

(29) Borrowing of money on the sole credit of the province.

TRANSFERRED SUBJECTS

(1) Local Self-Government (except Cantonments).
(2) Medical administration.
(3) Public health, sanitation and vital statistics.
(4) Pilgrimages within British India.
(5) Education (with some exceptions).
(6) Public Works—

(*a*) Construction and maintenance of provincial buildings.

(*b*) Roads, bridges, ferries, etc.

(*c*) Tramways within municipal areas.

(*d*) Light and feeder-railways and extra-municipal tramways for which provision is made by provincial legislation.

(7) Agriculture.
(8) Civil Veterinary Department.
(9) Fisheries.
(10) Co-operative Societies.
(11) Forests.
(12) Excise.
(13) Registration of deeds and documents.
(14) Registration of births, deaths and marriages.
(15) Religious and Charitable Endowments.
(16) Development of industries, including industrial research and technical education.
(17) Stores and stationery required for transferred Departments.
(18) Adulteration of food-stuffs and other articles.
(19) Weights and measures.
(20) Libraries, museums and exhibitions (with certain exceptions).
(21) Historical monuments (with certain exceptions).
(22) Town planning and development in municipal areas (except cases dealing with the Bombay City and Suburban Division).

APPENDIX II

List of Official Reports used in the compilation of this Volume.

PART II

CHAPTER I

INDIAN STATES

Annual Reports of the Indian States referred to in the Chapter and of Aden for the year 1925-26.

CHAPTER II

LAND RECORDS

Annual Report of the Department of Land Records in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind), Report of the Collector and Talukdari Settlement Officer, Ahmedabad, and the Report on the Administration of Incumbered Estates in Sind for the year 1925-26.

CHAPTER III

LAW AND JUSTICE

Report on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice in the Bombay Presidency and Sind and Report on the Administration of the Registration Department for the year 1925, Annual Report on the working of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, for the year 1925-26 and Proceedings of the Bombay Legislative Council.

CHAPTER IV

POLICE AND CRIME

Annual Reports on the Bombay District Police and the Bombay City Police, Administration Reports on Government Workhouses, Administration Report of the Bombay Jail Department and the Report on the working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1925.

CHAPTER V

AGRICULTURE, WEATHER AND CROPS

The Season and Crop Report of the Bombay Presidency, the Report of the Department of Agriculture, Land Revenue Administration Report of the Bombay Presidency, including Sind, Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency, Annual Report on Forests, Note on the Weather of the Bombay Presidency and the Annual Report of the Empress and Bund Gardens, Poona, for the year 1925-26.

CHAPTER VI

TRADE AND COMMERCE

Annual Report of the Department of Industries for the year 1925-26, Annual Factory Report of the Bombay Presidency for the year 1925, Report on the Administration of the Bombay Boiler Inspection Department, Annual Report of the Bombay Smoke Nuisances Commission, Annual Report on the Sea-borne Trade of the Bombay Presidency, Report on the Maritime Trade of the Province of Sind, Report on the Trade and Navigation of the Port of Aden and Annual Reports on Shipping Offices, Bombay, Karachi and Aden, for the year 1925-26.

CHAPTER VII

PUBLIC WORKS

Administration Report of the Public Works Department for the year 1925-26.

CHAPTER VIII

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL RELIEF

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for the Government of Bombay for the year 1925, Report on Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries for the year 1925-26, Annual Report of the Haffkine Institute and Report on Mental Hospitals for the year 1925, Report on Vaccination in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1925-26, Annual Reports of the Chemical Analysers to Government, Bombay and Sind, for the year 1925, and Annual Administration Report of the Civil Veterinary Department in the Bombay Presidency including Sind for the year 1925-26.

CHAPTER IX

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Report on Municipal Taxation and Expenditure for the Bombay Presidency including Sind, Administration Report of the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, Annual Report on Local Boards in the Bombay Presidency, Administration Report of the City of Bombay Improvement Trust and Annual Reports on Port Trusts, Bombay, Karachi and Aden, for the year 1925-26.

CHAPTER X

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Annual Report on the Sea-borne Trade and Customs Administration of the Bombay Presidency, Report on the Maritime Trade of the Province of Sind, Reports on the Administration of the Salt Department of the Bombay Presidency, Sind and Aden, Reports on the Administration of the Excise Department in the Bombay Presidency, Sind and Aden, Annual Report of the Stamp Department in the Bombay Presidency and Sind, and the Annual Report on Income Tax for the year 1925-26.

APPENDICES

CHAPTER XI

INSTRUCTION

Report of the Director of Public Instruction in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1925-26, Report of the Reformatory School at Yeravda and the Report of the Royal Asiatic Society (Bombay Branch) for the year 1925, Administration Report of the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay and the Annual Report of the Victoria Museum, Karachi, for the year 1925-26.

CHAPTER XII

ARCHÆOLOGY

Progress Report of the Archæological Survey of India, Western Circle, for the year 1925-26.

CHAPTER XIII

MISCELLANEOUS

Administration Reports for the Diocese of Bombay and of the Presidency Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland, Bombay Presidency, Annual Report on Government Printing and Stationery, and the Report on the working of the Development Department for the year 1925-26 and the Annual Reports of the Bombay and Karachi Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the years 1925 and 1925-26, respectively.

APPENDIX III

1925-26

GOVERNOR

His Excellency Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, P.C., G.C.I.E., C.M.G., D.S.O. (on leave from 12th March 1926).

His Excellency the Honourable Sir Henry S. Lawrence, K.C.S.I. (Acting).

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Honourable Sir Maurice H. W. Hayward, K.C.S.I. (Vacated office, 4th January 1926).	Home Member and Vice-President of Council.
The Honourable Mr. J. L. Rieu, C.S.I. (From 9th January 1926 to 23rd March 1926).	Home Member.
The Honourable Mr. J. E. B. Hotson, C.S.I., O.B.E. (Took his seat, 24th March 1926).	
The Honourable Sir Henry S. Lawrence, K.C.S.I. ..	Finance Member and Vice-President of Council.
The Honourable Sir Chunilal V. Mehta, Kt. (From 24th March 1926).	
The Honourable Sir Chunilal V. Mehta, Kt. (on leave from 8th June 1925 to 17th September 1925).	Revenue Member
The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas Mehta, C.I.E. (Temporary) (From 8th June 1925 to 17th September 1925).	
The Honourable Mr. J. L. Rieu, C.S.I.	
The Honourable Mr. Cowasji Jehangir, C.I.E., O.B.E.	General Member.

MINISTERS

The Honourable Sir Ghulam Husain Hidayatu'lah, Kt.	Minister of Local Self-Government.
The Honourable Mr. B. V. Jadhav	Minister of Education.
The Honourable Mr. Ali Mahomed Khan Dehlavi..	Minister of Forests and Excise.

PRESIDENT, BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.

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BOMBAY.

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY
Scale of Miles
REFERENCE
District Head Quarters
Metalled Roads
Unmetalled Roads
Kutcha Roads or Cart Tracks
Railway open & Railway Station
Heights above mean Sea level
JACOBABAD
SUKKUR
KHAIRPUR
KARACHI
HYDERABAD
UMARKOT
SAN
CUTCH
RAJPUTANA AGENCY
CENTRAL INDIA AGENCY
BERAR
CENTRAL PROV.
BOMBAY
THANA
RATNAGIRI
KARWAR
DHARWAR
MADRAS PRESY.
MAISUR
ARABIAN SEA

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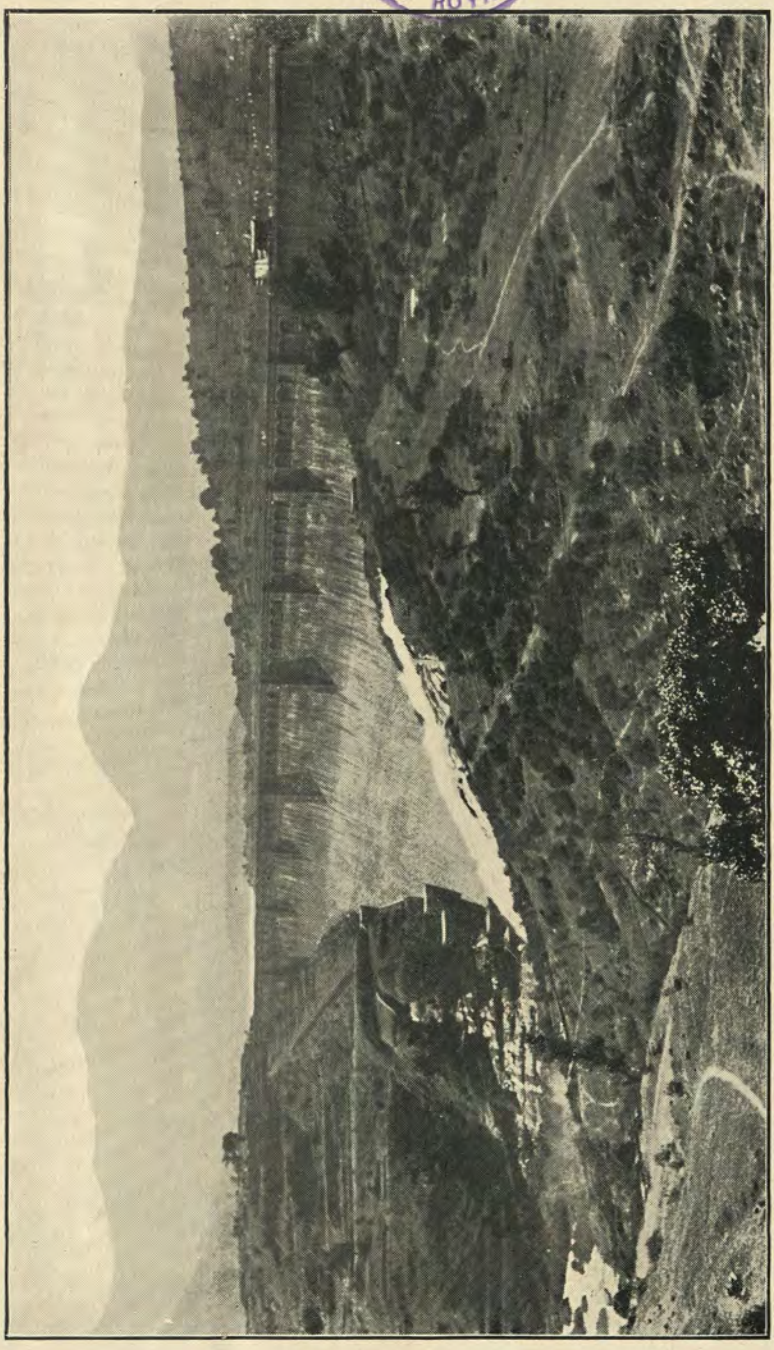

THE COMPLETED WILSON DAM AT BHANDARDARA

[*Frontispiece*

ROYAL ASIATIC

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